VOYAGE

TO

SENEGAL,

THE

ISLE OF GOREE,

AND THE

RIVER GAMBIA.

By M. ADANSON,

Correspondent of the Royal Academy of Sciences.

Mediis in finibus orbis, Sol ubi.

Translated from the FRENCH.

With Notes by an English Gentleman, who resided fome Time in that Country.

LONDON:

Printed for J. Nourse in the Strand, and W. Jonnston in Ludgate-street. 1759.

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TRANSLATOR'S

PREFACE.

blished by a celebrated philosopher of antiquity, that if a young man is ambitious to raise a reputation in the world, or to improve in knowledge and wisdom,

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he should travel into foreign countries *. This feems to have been strongly verified by the learned M. Adanson, author of the following voyage. The love of natural history, and an ardent defire of fame, excited this gentleman very early in life, to exchange his native foil for the burning fands of Senegal; where he spent five years, in making a diligent inquiry into the various curiofities, natural and artificial, of Negroland. Hitherto we had received but very imperfect accounts from that part of Africa, former adventurers having had

^{*} Philostratus in Apollonio.

no notion of improving their minds, but their fortunes; fo that their relations are confined to the auri facra fames, the purchase of slaves, teeth and dust, with other materials of gain. Our author is the first philosopher, who adventured to vifit the torrid zone, for the propagation of knowledge; and who in fearch of this valuable treasure, may be truly faid, to have encountered more monsters, than those ancient heroes, represented in fabulous story, to have gone in pursuit of the golden fleece.

He begins his observations at his departure from Port L'Ori-A 3 ent,

ent) the third of March 749 and does not finish them till five years oaftery invither month of March, 17541 By the general account of his voyage, we find, that during this time he employed himself chiefly, in the most curious researches of natural history; confulting rather his zeal for the advancement of learning, than his bodily strength, which was often put to the leverest We shudder even, at the perulal of the many hardships he went through, to fatisfy his own and the public curiofity; either in walking over the burning lands of the deferts of Africa expoled to the foorching heats of

of the fun; or in travering riwers and totrents, upon the back
of a Negroe, who was frequently up to his chin in water; or in
defending himfelf against tigers,
wild boars, crocodiles, serpents,
and other savage beasts, besides
the many noxious insects, with
which those deserts abound.

A Philosopher, like M. Adanfon, whose aim in travelling is to
see and to learn, takes notice of
every thing that falls in his way.
From so exact and judicious a narrative, one may therefore form a
just idea of this part of Africa;
a country overspread with misery,
the natural consequence of laziness. Thus he informs us of
what-

whatever relates to the manners and customs of the Negroes, to their dress, habitations, repasts, dances, unfuperstitions, and poverty: neither does he forget to mention their fociability, goodnature, docility, and respect for the French nation, which, we make no doubt, but they will be equally ready to shew to the new conquerors of Senegal *. He likewife takes notice of the Moors of that country, a nation very different from the Negroes, but almost as poor and as indolent. Our author lived and conversed with those different people, and

This is to be understood, provided they meet with the like good usage they have been so long accustomed to.

met with so kind a reception from them, as must be an encouragement to those, who shall have occasion to trade to that coast, since the French settlements have been so gloriously reduced by the arms of Great-Britain.

In regard to the authenticity of this narrative, we may venture to affirm, that nothing of the kind has been published, with such strong marks of veracity, since Lord Anson's voyage. The character of our author, and his learned improvements, are well known at Paris, where he went through a course of study, under Messieurs de Justieu, of the Royal Academy of Sciences. Up-

on expressing an earnest desire of going over to Africa, with a view of making discoveries in the natural history of that country, he was introduced to M. David, Director of the East-India company, who recommended him in the warmest manner to M. de la Brue *, director general of the factory of Senegal. These are public

This gentleman being mentioned with great respect by our author, in several parts of this voyage, the reader will not perhaps be displeased with a further account of his character. He lived 27 years on his government, during which time his constant study was to serve not only his country, but the whole human species. I shall give but one instance of his universal benevolence. Having learned that the Moors, in the neighbourhood, either made captives, or killed, such Europeans, as had the missortune to be ship-wrecked on their coast; he, from a principle of humanity, offered a reward of the value of twenty mendores for every man in that condition, they

public facts, which evidently prove him to be a man of character and abilities, and every way qualified for this arduous talk, so greatly conducive to the advancement of learning and commerce. As to his manner of executing it, we need only to mention the high approbation of the Royal Academy of Sciences, which we shall insert here at full length, as a lasting monument of the author's extraordinary merit.

they should bring to him alive. Thus he redeemed, at different times, and sent home to their native country, at his own expence, sourteen British subjects. He is also a man of genius and learning. The author of this note came to France with him, in the first cartel.

dicious obleve tons of the author,

afford reason to believe, that his

Extract

Extract from the registers of the Royal Academy of Sciences,

Dec. the 4th, 1756.

Effieurs de Reaumur and VI de Justieu Junior, having been appointed to examine a work, written by M. Adanfon, correspondent of the Academy, and intitled, A Voyage to Senegal, &c. performed during the Years 1749, 1750, 1751, 1752, 1753, &c. and having made their report, the Academy is of opinion, that the ingenious notions, exact descriptions, and judicious observations of the author, afford reason to believe, that his work Barrell

work will be acceptable to the public, and deserves the approbation of the Academy. In witness hereof I have signed the present certificate. Paris, Dec. the 4th, 1756.

Grand Jean de Fouchy, perpetual secretary of the Royal Academy of Sciences.

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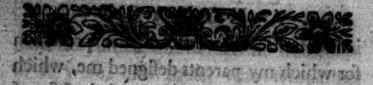
The Reader will please to observe, that the French names of several places, animals, trees, &t. have been retained in the translation, as well because some of them seem to be of African original, others have been received in late use by the natives, and others, in fine, (which we may say of most of them) were such as we could not find proper terms to express them in our language. In regard to the Notes interspersed throughout this work, they were communicated by an English Gentleman, of high character and reputation, who resided some time in that country, and whose name would do us honour, were we at liberty to mention it.

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T has been long observed, that most people come into the world with an inclination to some particular study or pro-

fession, which grows up and is strengthened with years. Whatever views our parents may have had in our education, the predominant taste always prevails, and, generally speaking, determines the pursuits or occupations of the rest of our life. Having in my very early days selt a particular liking to the study of philosophy and natural history, I found my

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inclinations averse from the profession for which my parents designed me, which was that of the church; and therefore I resigned a benefice, with which I had been already provided, that I might be intirely at liberty to pursue the study of natural philosophy.

The branch I first took up with was that of bottony, which I confidered as one of the most engaging studies, not only from its confiderable use in life, but from its agreeable variety. The opportunity I had of attending the tures of Mess. de Justien at the king's gardens, led me thither very often; and the strong passion I felt for that sciences together with my constant application, foon made me known to those gentlemen. I cannot sufficiently express my acknowledgment to those two great mafters, under whose direction I first began that wast career, which I have not yet finished. The spirit of observation and inquiry, to remarkable in M. Bernard -111

hard de Justieu, and which he transfuses, as it were, into those, who sympathise with him in the same kind of studies, took with me immediately, and by degrees led me on from the study of plants to that of minerals, and from thence to that of animals, insects, and shells, in short, to every branch of natural history.

From that time I had access to the king's cabinet, and to those of M. de Reaumur, and Mess. de Justieu; there I laid a foundation of knowledge, to qualify me for making observations of every kind: and as a little astronomy seemed conducive to my purpose, I learnt as much as was necessary under M. le Monnier.

After I had gone through a course of study for upwards of six years, under the direction of those celebrated Academicians, I made known the intention, which I had long since formed, of going abroad for further improvement. The obser-

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vations of those gentlemen on different branches of the natural history of France had very near exhausted the subject; I therefore concluded that nothing could be of greater service to me, than so employ a part of my youthful days in a voyage to some distant and unfrequented country, from a persuasion that I should return with several discoveries, which would be new to Europe. I was sensible that the equinoctial parts of Africa had not been visited by any naturalist, consequently that a vast field was open to me, where I might reap a plentiful harvest of observations.

It was not, I confess, a small undertaking, for me alone to execute a work, which requires the joint labours of persons well skilled in botany, natural philosophy, anatomy, and design. This consideration however did not deter me; and I declared my intention to my late father, who introduced me the beginning of the year 1748, to M. David, knight knight of the order of St. Michael, and director of the East-India company, to whom he was very well known. M. Dawid, attentive to whatever may be of use to commerce, greatly approved of my defign, and expressed vast joy at an undertaking, which might be as ferviceable to natural philosophy as to the commerce of the honourable East-India company. He got me a place in the factory of Senegal, and promifed me my paffage on board the first ship which should set out immediately after the publication of the peace. I was greatly charmed to find my wishes fulfilled, and I fet out from Paris the 20 Decem. 20th of December the same year, in or- The author sets der to take my passage at Port l'Orient out from in one of the company's ships

intended the difference of the following The winter was still very severe when 1749. I embarked the 3d of March 1749, on March 3. board the Chevalier Marin, commanded ther takes thipping at by M. Daprès de Mannevillette. We set Port L'Ofail about ten o' clock in the morning, and got out of harbour in company with

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1749. March.

two finall veffels, which were defigned for the fame port with us. The wind being at N. E. foon carried us out to fear, the beauty and ferenity of which afforded us

Porpoifes or fea hogs.

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a most delightful prospect. An infinite number of porpoifes, or fea-hogs, dancing about our ship, seemed to wish us a happy voyage; they flounced and leaped above the furface of the water, fo that their intire bodies could be feen; then bending themselves like a bow, they plunged into the liquid element, and role again with furprising agility, fo as to imitate by these different motions the undulations of the waves. It was pleafant to behold them, now advancing in front, and drawn up in the fame line; now coming athwart each other, as if they intended to dispute who should approach nearest the vessel; in short, their fports were fo various and entertaining, that we gazed at them a long while, bein a mark fore we were tired. false anothe total of outside the the morning

They move. These fishes are said to move conagainst the wind. Rantly against the wind; and the sailors

TO SENEGAL, &c.

can foretell by their motion, which way it is to blow. Though this may not be true on all occasions, it was fo at least on this; for we did not long enjoy that agreeable ferenity. The wind foon chopped about, and blew fo hard from the S. E. that the fea grew very rough in a short time. The small vessels that accompanied us, were dispersed, and we loft fight of them till the day we arrived at Senegal. In the mean while the Bad weaftorm increased, and the billows rose so ther near high, that we were obliged to drive before the wind, and in that condition we experienced the utmost fury of a tempestuous ocean. At length, after having struggled twenty days with this boifterous element, fuckily we doubled Cape Finifterre, which had given us fo much posser, we direw towards it, keepldfort

aiways to the footh-call, the more No fooner had we reached the latitude of 36, when we began to find the fea more calm. A fresh gale sprung up at N. N. E. fo that we had very agreeable from B 4

1740. weather after the ftorm, and were en-

joying the pleasure of a fine climate; Sight of when we espied land the 6th of April: the Peak of This was the Peak, of Tenerif, which appeared to us in the form of a pyramid, or more properly of a fugar-loaf, the fides of which were stuck with several points. Though according to our reckoning, we were distant from thence upwards of fourteen leagues at N. E. it feemed to us to be raifed under an angle of above five degrees. At this distance, it had more the appearance of a cloud than of a mountain, by reason of its whiteness; and nothing but its stability could make us distinguish it. Sometimes it was perceived above, and at other times below the clouds, according as these were more or less distant from us. The nearer we drew towards it, keeping it always to the fouth-east, the more it feemed to be upon a level with the neighbouring mountains; fo that when we were within four leagues, it was no longer possible for us to distinguish it from TOSENEGAL, &c.

from the reft. I In this position the 1740 island of Tenerif seemed to be a cluster of mountains, joined so close to each other, that we could only difeern their hour of Santas County in the ensept

The notice we had taken of the ifle They deof Tenerif, pursuant to the established termine to custom of vessels trading to the coast

constant part of the ident, where we ancho-

of Africa, was fufficient to direct us in the remainder of our course to Senegal; and we should have followed it, had our present circumstances permitted. But the greatest part of our water and provisions had been confumed, during the delay occasioned by contrary winds off Cape Finisterre; and what little remained, was infufficient to complete our voyage: so that we were under an abfolute necessity of putting into some harbour, in order to take in a fresh supply of provisions. Being so near land, it would have been imprudent to let flip the opportunity: we there-

all and frequently without bait. Sugar

therefore kept failing till night, and then her big, and on because insense. Ac handle of mountaine, joined to citie to each

His fhip cafts an-

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The day following we made the hare chor in the bour of Santa Cruz, in the eastern ort of or antaCruz. part of the island, where we anchored in forty-five fathorn water, the length of three cables from land. This place greatly resembles a road for ship, ping, because it is very open; yet it would be a pretty good harbour, if it had but fafe anchorage: but being rocky bottom, it is apt to let the anchors flip, and to cut the cables. However it is a very wholesome place. The whole day was fpent in mooring the thip, and fecuring its anchors. We like wife amused ourselves with fishing for mackrel. This feemed to be almost the only fish that could be found in that fpot; and there was fuch plenty thereof, that all the mackrel of the neighbouring feas feemed to have made this their rendezvous. We had only to throw out our line, and we were fure of catching fish; and frequently without bait.

The

the fame fortes described burgers to

The people of the country catch this fish in a better manner. As foon as Plenty of mackrel. the night fets in, and the fea is calm, they light up flambeaus, and foread themselves with their boats all over the harbour, for about a league in circumference. When they come to the fpot where there feems to be the greatest plenty of fish, they stop their boats, holding the flambeau above the water, in such a manner as it shall give light without dazzling their eyes: and as foon as they fee the fifth sporting on the furface of the waves, and gathering round the light, they cast their net, and drag it immediately into their boat: thus they continue till their quantity is combleated. Visy at it was soft you bedie zer plant of bendes has und I

While this amusement lasted, we were visited every minute by fishermen, who came on board our thip to fell their commodity; and indeed we had it very theap. The Canary mackrel is not of

1740; April.

Plenty of

10.30

the same fort as that of Europe; it is not so broad, but much smaller, though very long; the skin is of a deep blue on the back, of a silver colour on the belly, and agreeably streaked. The slesh is white and firm, but somewhat dry; and though inferior to our European mackrel, still it is very well tasted.

Difficult landing.

The day following we had leave to go ashore. The sea was very calm in the road; but it was quite another thing on the fea-fide; where there was a furf that would have frightened the most intrepid. As it is all covered with pebbles, which form a very steep bank, and are alternately impelled and repelled by the fea, it is very difficult landing. They are obliged to make use of the surge which drives towards shore, and to take care that the boat is not turned about, nor carried back to fea. For which purpose there are several sailors waiting on the sea-side; who, as foon orit:

from as they see the surge approaching, step into the water, lay fast hold on the boat, then lift it up with the people in it, and earry it ashore in a most dexterous manner.

It is fittiated at the find of the

I740. April

After we had landed we found at the Town of Santa distance of a hundred paces from the sea- Cruz. Indicate in

fide, the town of Santa Cruz, figuate in the east part of the island, as well as the harbour to which it gives its name. This town is neither fortified, nor furrounded with walls. It stands on a plain ascending from the sea, and terminating in la inarrow piece of land, very flat, white, and fandy, about a league in extent towards the fouth. The town is four hundred fathoms in length, and fifty in breadth. It contains three hundred houfes, built of Stone, and three stories high The number of inhabitants is about three droufand, all Spaniards, who in their customs and manner of living differ but very little from those of Europe.

precipiees, which are offentimes above

Within

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Laguna the capital.

Tenerif.

Within three leagues west of this city. following the gorges of the mountains, which form an infensible afcent, we found the town of Laguna, capital of the island. It is fituated at the foot of the Peak above-mentioned. This mountain, Peak of which bears the name of the Peak of Tonerif, is in 28 degrees 12 minutes north latitude, and eighteen degrees 52 minutes west longitude of Paris, We found its heighth to be above two thousand de thoms, that is, hear a league perpendicular, which makes it tone of the his elt mountains in the univerfe. It is fald that the top of it is covered with show the whole year round, and that it fometimes throws out combustible metter, without much noise. It stands nearly in the middle of the illand, and is furrounded with a great number of mountains, which are almost half a league in perpendicular heighth. At the foot of these mountains you fee feveral gutters like frightful precipices, which are oftentimes above a hundred feet wide, and two hundred deep. They are made by the waterfloods precipitated thither during the floring and as foon as those floods are gone, the bottom is left quite bare, how remnission by their excellent wines,

The foil of this island is of a redshift Nature of

call, nobattall deep, but extremely fruitfull In the gorges of the mountains to the morth rand cease parts of the town, you see the linest groves of orange, citron, and lemon-trees of tall fores id There tare alfo pointegranate and fig-trees all lover the illand. Befides the choicest finite in Burope, the inhabitants of Tenerif have there of thereas as bandna's, papayate, and canada the pine capples, which they plane in their gardens The most ungrateful lands produce carob trees, and inclose of every kind, especially waterasslone. In the valles you fee fields of the finest corn in the world, variegated at regular distances with rows of dragontrees *, which in their heighth and figure

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de generaliste de chiefe de allega elecationes The mountains are laid out in vineyards, which have acquired a high reputation by their excellent wines, known by the name of Canary and Malinsey. The former is extracted from a large grape, which makes a strong heady liquor; and is the common wine. The latter is made of a small grape, berry of which is round and vally fweet; and the juice fourezed from it has likewife a fweeter and more agreeable flayour, which gives it greatly the advantage of the other. The quality of these wines is commonly attributed to the climate, and to the nature of the foil; but I apprehend that the culture and form of the vineyards contributes at least as much to their goodness. Their method; as I have feen practifed in the

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[†] A kind of palm-tree, the leaves of which open like a fan.

neighbourhood of Santa Cruz, is as fol- 1749 lows. They pitch upon a hill that has _ an advantageous exposition to the south, preferable to any other: the lower part they plant with vines, to an ascent of two hundred feet at the most. Upon the whole ground defigned for the vines, they erect little walls breaft high, at the distance of four or five feet from one another. These serve for several purpofes; in the first place, by upholding the earth, they hinder the roots of the tree from being laid bare; secondly, they withold the rain-waters, which would otherwise run down the hills, without loaking the earth; laftly, they increase the reflexion of the fun beams, and procure a greater heat to the vine. True it is, that as these walls are made of dry stone, symmetrically ranged without mortar or mud, part of them tumble down fometimes in heavy rains: but the mischief is quickly repaired, and may even be prevented, by laying above the uppermost wall a row of large stones fomeApril A

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The back of these mountains, on the north side, is barren and uncultivated. The prospect it assords to the eye, is an amphithentre of bare rocks, the colour of slate, cut into vertical parallelopipedons, from six to eight seet high, and from three to sour broad, the angles very acute. They may be considered as so many precipices raised one above the other. When you have reached

wind!

TOSENEGAL, &c.

have reached the top, you are indically ravilled with a prospect bounded only by the Horizon of the fea: you find your Prospect felf raised far above the clouds, through top of the which you may descry, at the distance of tains. twelve leagues to the fourth, Canary and the other neighbouring islands. Here, infield of treading upon earth, I was amazed to find nothing under my feet but afties, purnices, and burnt stones, fragments of which I law likewise feattered here and there as I descended; but the greatest part of them are fallen down to the foot of the mountains, and even to the fea-fide.

Where the earth was open, I per Nature of ceived unider the purnices a flone in large mailes, of the colour of fate, and a good deal like the bare rocks which I had observed on the ridge of the mounttained This stone bears so great referrablance to that which is melted by voldano's; and the companion I made be-

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tween it and the lavas, which M. de: Juffieu had received not only from the volcano's in Italy, but likewise from that of the ifle of Bourbon, confirmed this resemblance in such a manner, that I think we cannot, nor ought we to give it any other name. The like remark I made in the gutters, and in the quarry that has been dug in the neighbourhood of Santa Cruz: there we find the same maffes underneath a very irregular stratum of burnt stones; and they are cut into pieces for the use of building. The external and internal appearance of these mountains, the lavas of which they are intirely formed, and the feveral burnt stones which lie scattered as far as the fea shore, leave no room to doubt but that each of the mountains, of which the ifle of Tenerif is composed, owes its original to a particular volcano. which, after undermining it inwardly, at length has intirely spent itself: and this fubterraneous operation is still continued nued under the Peak, that huge moun- 1749. tain, which vomits fire from time to _ time

There is never a river in this island, Springs because of the smallness of its circumference. The inhabitants supply the want thereof by wooden pipes which communicate with the fprings in the mountains: and from thence the water is conveyed to the town, the distance of about half a league. This water being hard and crude, they filtrate it through a stone, which is very common in their quarries. It is a kind of lava, of the colour of foot, in a medium betwixt the denfity of the grey lava, and the porofity of the pumice.

The temperate climate of Tenerif, and the richnels of its pasture, contri- Cattle. bute greatly to the goodness of the cattle. They have fine herds of oxen, and excellent kid; but mutton is not fo com-

April but game, especially wild fawl, is very birds quite grey. I took notice that the Canary-birds quite bird, which grows white in France, is here almost as grey as a linnet. This change of colour very likely is owing to the coldness of our climate.

Plants in Tenerif.

The passion I had for herborizing, made me regret the backwardness of the season. Most of the plants peculiar to this country, were still concealed in the bosom of the earth; nevertheless my researches were not altogether fruitless. Near the sea-shore I found two sorts of sig-marygolds, otherwise called seconds: *: the jasminoides, or hastard jas-

* Ficoidea procumbens, portulacze folio. Niff. Mem. Acad. 1711. pag. 322. pl. 13. fig. 1.

Aizoon foliis cunciformi-ovatis, floribus feffitibus.

Ficoides nostras, kali folio fore alho. Towner. Mem. Acad. 1705. pag. 241.

Mesem-

Will ending actions

jasmine , adorned the tops of precipices. and gutters with its pendant branches, which were loaded with ripe fruit : and the corn-flag of + Provence enamelled the valleys and meadows with its flowers. As I traversed the mountains, I perceived that the plants peculiar to them, feemed to affect a certain heighth. For instance, the kleinia t, and some new plants, which I purpose to make known, always grow on the lower part, where the vineyards are generally planted. About the middle we saw only the titbymalus | or spurge; and the top of all was covered with forests of eupborbia ¶.

whose

Mesembryantheum foliis alternis, teretiusculis obtufis, ciliatis. Linn. bort. Upfal. pag. 129.

Jasminoides Africanum, jasmini aculeati foliis, & facie. Niff. Mem. Acad. 1711, pag. 322. pl. 12. fig. 1.

+ Gladiolus utrinque floridus, flore rubro. C. B.

pag. 41.

† Kleinia foliis lanceolatis, planis, caule lavi, ve 1 tricofo. Linn. bort. Cliff. pag. 395.

Tithymalus dendroides linarize folis ex infula Canarina. Pluk. Phyt. tab. 319. fig. 1.

Euphorbia aculeata, nuda, fubquinquangularis, aculeis geminatis. Linn. bort. Cliff. pag. 196.

whosestalks, though from twelve to fifteen feet high, appeared to me below, like fine mois. The euphorbia and the tithymalus were then in flower, and furrounded with feveral forts of bind-weed. which twifted round their stems. In my walks I met with no more than one fort of land-shell, for the description and figure of which I refer to the history of shells, at the end of this relation *.

Beauty of the climate.

I was every day more in love with this beautiful country. The mildness of a climate where it never freezes, the advantageous fituation of the island, and the variety of its productions, all together gave me infinite pleasure; so that I should have staid much longer if circumstances would have permitted. But as the season was advancing, and we had taken in our supply of water and provifions; we were obliged to think of refuming our voyage.

scales committee Long deep togs 195.

^{*} Conchae univalves. 5th fort, pl. 1. fig 2. A Service to the service od Thompsonia aralanta, anda, modernomengulais,

The fifteenth of April we weighed 17 anchor, and left the isle of Tenerif after _ eight days refreshment. The trade Departure winds at N. E. were fo gentle as not to from Teruffle the fea, fo that we steered a pleafant course till we reached the tropics. There we foon found by the bright ferene days, and excessive heats, that we had changed climate the third time: for in less than fix weeks we experienced winter, spring, summer, and the dog-days. In these latitudes the sea, when agitated in the night, seemed as if it were on fire, Luminous and marked our course by a streak of light which the vessel left behind it. This phænomenon, the particulars of which shall be explained in another work, appeared to me very engaging, and I fpent several nights in inquiring into the cause of it.

We continued our course with the He discosame favourable weather till the 25th of vers the April, when we found ourselves within Senegal. fight of the coast of Senegal. The land

is low, fandy, and very white, to that

passage.

with great difficulty could we differn its though it was very clear weather, and we were within three or four leagues; of there: at length we spied a thicket partly covered by the downs, whereby we knew that we were off the wood of Griel, that is, within two leagues north of the island of Senegal. Not long after we faw hovering over the ship, a bird which seemed greatly tired, and defirous of reft: he pitched upon one of the masts; but a fowlingpiece foon brought him down upon dock. A Bird of This was too beautiful a bird to omit giving a fhort description of him. He greatly refembled a jay * in the fize of his body, and the figure of his beak and feet; but he differed from him in some other respects. His belly was of a pale blue, and his back fallow. His tail was adorned with two feathers, as long as the rest of his body; and the colour

· Garrulus argentoratenfis. Willey. Ornitb. pag. 89. tab. 20.

both

both of the tail, and of his wings, was the final fley-blue that eyes could behold. I often had occasion to see this kind of jay in the country of Senegal: but as I afterwards found he is a bird of passage, that comes to reside for some months of the summer in the southern parts of Europe, and goes back to spend the remainder of the year in Senegal, I would not omit mentioning that he is sometimes mer in his passage at sea.

The same day we arrived before the Anchoring-place in the usual signals, and saluted the fort with our guns, we cast anchor three leagues higher, at the mouth of the river Niger, in nine sathoms water, a slimy bettom, and good holding ground. Though we were within half a league of the bar, the sea was very high; and the winds blowing off the shore, made a prodigious surf, which occasioned our ship to roll in a strange manner.

Here

April. Here we were witnesses to a fatal accident, which but too often happens at Boat over sea. We put out our boat; but unlet. luckily it overset, and one of the men was drowned. However we did not stay long in the road; a boat was sent from the isle of Senegal, to carry us over the bar, and pilot us into the river.

What is meant by a bar.

By a bar we understand a partito cular agitation of the waves, which in
passing over a shoal +, swell and rise
to a sheet of water, from ten to twelve
feet high, and afterwards break in the
fall. No sooner has the first wave had
its effect, but it is followed by a second, and this by a third. They begin

- * This we may believe, as we lost on that bar, last May, a boat belonging to the Harwich man of war, and in it captain Foreman, the next in command to the commander in chief, and than whom, none could have more deservedly been regretted.
- † Which shoal, or bank of sand, our author should have understood by a bar; but what he says above, is only the effect of the shoal or bar. I only mean, the shoal is the bar.

to be perceptible at a hundred and 1749. fometimes a hundred and fifty fathoms from the coast, and are as formidable to large as to fmall veffels. A boat runs the danger of being overset, and a ship of being dashed to pieces. This bar extends all along the coast of Senegal; at least there are few places it does not reach. Such was the danger we had to encounter before we could enter this river, the mouth of which was covered by a bank of fand, against which the billows dashed with great violence. Luckily for us, we arrived at a time of year when the fea is not so boisterous, consequently when the bar is less difficult to get over: we were piloted by negroes, all hearty fellows, and so well acquainted with this navigation, that very rarely any accidents happen . has have a secho ye ballen

The pilot boats belonging to the Pilot boats bar are small decked vessels, from fifty

^{*} All accounts, as well as our thort acquaintance of the bar, confirms the truth of this.

1749. April.

to fixty tuns, and thingings later. They generally fail with ballat only, and feldom draw more than four of five feet water. The care of them is intirely committed to negross, whom you must not pretend either to contradict or advice. When we were on the bar. we were obliged as keep profound filence. that the pilot might not be in the leaft interrupted: some hid themselves through fear of being drowned, and fonte through apprehension of being wet; others, more intrepid than the rest, stood upon deck to view the agitation of the waves. I, as an observer, could not help placing myfelf in this flation; and for my pains I got thoroughly wet. We were above half a quarter of an hour in this dangerous pallage; now lifted up by billows which bended under us; and now toffed by others which dashed appoint the fides of the veffel, and covered it all over with water. One wave lifted us up very high, and then left us aground; another came and took its up the lice ber, confirms the reach of this.

Paffage over the bar.

Resident

Commenced.

TOSENEGAL, Sc. and was followed by others in the like 1749. faccession. At length, after being toffed in this manner for fome time, we faw ourselves out of danger. As it is customary on this occasion to make a handsome present to the negroes of the bar; each passenger behaved generously towards them, and they were very well fatisfied.

its and report state in that winter rate in a company As foon as we entered the river Ni- Breadth of ger, we found ourselves in a very gen-Nigeratits tle stream, of above three hundred fathoms in breadth, that is, four or five times broader than the Seine at Pont-Royal. Its direction is exactly north and fouth, parallel to the coast, for the space of three leagues, from its mouth to the island of Senegal. The land on both fides is only one continued plain of quick fends, extremely white, with a few downs scattered here and there, and continually thifting according to the caprice of the winds. The western bank forms a very low cape or nar-

river from the sea; and whose greatest breadth is not a hundred and sifty fathoms: this is called Barbary Point. The eastern bank is higher; but they are both equally dry and barren, and produce only a sew low plants. We did not perceive any trees, till we advanced two leagues higher, towards the English island; and then we spied some mangroves, which are almost the only tree we saw till we arrived at the island of Senegal.

The author lands at the ifland of Senegal.

WENT

This place is fituated within three leagues of the mouth of the river, and two thirds of a league from the English island. It is the chief settlement of Senegal; and the residence of the director general. We arrived by night-sall at the harbour east of the fort, where we landed. As soon as I set soot on shore, I waited upon M. de la Brue, the director general, who gave

me a most kind reception. I delivered 1749. to him the letters of recommendation which I had from his uncle, M. David, director of the East-India company, who was pleased to interest himself in my favour: and they operated even beyond what I could possibly expect in a country subject to such difficulties. In short, he promised to affift me on all occafions, and he did it accordingly with fuch readiness and good nature, as deserves a grateful acknowledgment from the lovers of natural history, if I have done any thing towards promoting this branch of learning.

He foon was as good as his word: I had the liberty of travelling up the country, and of examining into its various productions. To facilitate my defign, M. de la Brue procured me a boat, with negroes, and an interpreter, in short all conveniencies, as specified by the East-India company to the superior council, in a letter where_

in and in vito

1749. in they informed him of my intentions.

Descripisland of Senegal.

Being arrived in a country fo diffetion of the rent in every respect from my own, and finding myself as it were in a new world, whatever I beheld drew my attention, because it afforded me matter of instruction. The air, the chimate, the inhabitants, the animals, the lands, and vegetables, all were new to me: not one object that offered itself to my view, was I accustomed to. Which way foever I turned my eye, I faw nothing but fandy plains *, burnt by the most scorching heat of the fun. Even the very island I stood upon, is only a bank of fand, about 1150 fathoms in length, and 150 or 200 at the most in breadth, and almost level

Breadth of with the furface of the water. It dithe Niger vides the river into two branches, one towards this illand of which to the eastward is about

^{*} The author is midbleen, or has forgot, for the Guinea-fide is all covered with woods: the ifland and the Barbary shore, or tongue of land, are exactly as he describes.

200 fathoms broad, and the other west- 1749. ward near 200, with a confiderable depth stoly a vol as in the

who he pell mel This island, notwithstanding its ste-Negroes of Senegal. rility, was inhabited by upwards of three thousand negroes, invited thither by the generolity of the whites, into whose service most of them had entered. Here they have erected hou-Their les or huts, which occupy above houses or one half of the ground. These are a kind of dove or ice houses, the walls of which are reeds fastened close together, and supported by stakes driven into the ground. These stakes are from five to fix feet high, and have a round covering of straw, of the same height, and terminating in a point. Thus each but has only a ground floor, and is from ten to fifteen feet diameter. They have but one square door, very low, and many of them with a threshold raifed a foot above the ground; fo that in going in they must incline their bodies, and lift a leg up very high, an

1749. attitude not only ridiculous but diffe grecable. One or two beds are fre-Their beds quently sufficient for a whole family, including domestics, who lie pell mell along with their masters and the children. Their bed is a hurdle laid on cross pieces of wood, and supported by forkillas, or fmall forks, a foot above the ground; over this they throw a mat, which ferves them for a paillaffe or straw bed, for a mattress, and generally for sheets and bed-clothes; Their fur-as to pillows they have none. Their niture. furniture is not very cumbersome; for it confifts only of a few earthen pots. called canaris, a few calabalhes, or

What is All the huts belonging to the same meant by a tapade, person are inclosed with a wall or palisade of reeds, about fix feet high; to which they give the name of tapade. Though the negroes observe very little fymmetry in the fituation of their houses, yet the French of the island

gourd-bottles, with wooden bowls, and

and terminating in

the like utenfils.

of Senegal, have taught them to fol- 1749 low a certain uniformity in the large- April ness of the tapades, which they have regulated in such a manner, as to form a small town, with several streets drawn in a direct line. These streets indeed are not paved; and luckily there is no occasion for it; fince they would be very much at a loss to find the smallest pebble upwards of thirty leagues all round. The inhabitants find a greater conveniency in their fandy foil: for as it is very deep, and foft, it serves them to fit upon; it is also their sopha, their couch, their bed. Besides it has some other good uses, namely, that there is no danger in falling; and it is always very clean, even after the heaviest rains, because it imbibes the water with great eafe, and there needs only an hour of fine weather to dry it. However, this town or village, which ever you please to call it, is the handsomest, the largest, and the most regular in the country: they reckon, as I have already mentioned, upwards of three thou-

D 3

witten

fand

1749. April

fand inhabitants: it is about a quarter of a league long, and the breadth equal to that of the island, whose center it occupies, being equally ranged on both sides of the fort by which it is commanded.

Description of the

We may lafely affirm, that the negroes of Senegal are the likelieft men in all Nigritia, or Negroland. They are generally above middle fized, well thaped, and well limbed. There is no fuch thing ever known among them as cripples, or hump-backs, or bandy legs, unless it be by accident. They are strong, robust, and of a proper temperament for bearing fatigue. Their hair is black, curled, downy, and extremely fine. Their eyes are large and well cut, with very little beard; their features agreeable enough, and their skin the deepest black.

Their drefs.

Their usual dress consists in a small piece of linen which passes between their thighs; and the two ends being life ed up and folded, form a fort of drawers, which

which are tied with a fillet before; and 1740 thus they cover their nudity. They have likewise a paan, that is, a piece of callicoe, made in the form of a large napkin, which they carelelly throw over their shoulders, letting one end of it dangle against their knees.

The women are much about the Descripsame fize and make as the men. Their women. Atin is surprisingly delicate and fost; their mouth and lips are small; and their features very regular. There are fome of them perfect beauties *. They have a great share of vivacity, and a wast deal of freedom and ease, which renders them extremely agreeable. For Their drefs. their gloathing they make use of two paans, one of which goes round their waste, hangs down to the knee, and supplies the place of an under-petticoat; the other covers both their shoulders, and fometimes the head. This is a

. 13427

The valt numbers of children, and children's children, the French begat by them, and left there, prove our author is not fingular in his opinion. DA C

April. try: but they are generally fatisfied with the paan which covers the reins; and they throw off the other whenever they find it troublesome. One may easily judge that they are not long a dressing or undressing, and that their toilette is soon made.

Character of the Negroes of Oualo. As the island of Senegal is within the dependance of the kingdom of Oualo, the Negroes who live there, especially those who are free, are of that nation. They are, generally speaking, very goodnatured, sociable, and obliging. Those whom the company entertained in my service, were Oualoses, as they call themselves, or by corruption, Jalloss.

The author learns their language. Immediately after my arrival, I employed some months, not only in studying the manners and character of the inhabitants, but likewise in learning the Oualose language, which obtained most generally in that country: for I was sensible that it would be of great service

fervice to me, and even indispensably 174 necessary in regard to the researches I purposed to make. With this view I frequented their company, and was among them as often as possible. At length, when I looked upon myself as sufficiently acquainted with their usages and manners, and able to judge how to conduct myself in a country which had long been the object of my most ardent wishes, I determined to set out upon a ramble.

The quick fands of the island of Se-rate of Sor.
negal, their dogs-grass, mangroves, and
bind-weed, could not long afford sufsicient employment for a naturalist.
There was no way to get surther instruction, but by crossing the river in
order to visit the continent. With this
view I went over as often as I could in
my boat, and several days successively.
The island of Sor is the first land that
offers itself on the eastern bank of the
river, and is opposite to the isle of Senegal. It is above a league in length,
and

and interfected by fmall rivers, which are called marigets. The foil is fandy like that of the island of Senegal, but of furprizing fertility. In the middle of the island there are several hills of a very gentle ascent, covered with white and red gum trees, * and others of the fpinous kind, and of very difficult accele. vitorios samo der un tarse do otr

To. May. The author takes on that island.

I landed the first time on that island a walk up- the 10th of May, attended by my interpreter, and the two Negroes, who had rowed my boat. It is bordered by a very thick wood, where with a good deal of difficulty I found a path, which is the only passage to the inner part of the island. This would be no great harm, if a perion was not stopped every moment by thorns, which are apt to catch his clothes, and tear his legs: for my part I came off with lofing a few

scraps

^{*} A fort of acacia or Egyptian thorn, on which they gather two forts of gum, the white and the red. besetofore known by the same of gum Arabic, and at prefent by that of gum Senega.

1749, Mar.

forage of my waiftcoat or fhirt, the only apparel one can bear in fo fultry a country, and where a shirt alone is very cumbersome. But my Negroes, with all their agility, oftentimes left some bits of skin behind them, not to mention the thorns which stuck in their feet, most of them going without sandals. Is it not amazing that the inhabitants of this island should have traded with those of Senegal more than thirty years, and all this while not have given themselves the trouble to open a convenient road! Can there be a stronger proof of the lazinels and indolence of the Negroes? Their high road, the great thoroughfare of this illand, is a path, which does not even merit that name; fince a person is often obliged to creep on all four in order to get through it. Notwithstanding these difficulties I forced my way. unds of this land, by

My Negroes informed me, that there was some game in this place. I had

CIST)

Hares.

749 my gun, and each of them had theirs. I courfed for fome time without being discouraged by the curvatures I was

obliged to make every moment under the thorns. I killed a few partridges

and hares, which made me amends for

my pains. The hares of this country are not altogether like those of France:

they are not fo large; and their colour

is something between a hare and a rabbet. Their flesh is white, which gives

them a greater refemblance to a rab-

bet; but they do not burrow: they

are tender, and extremely well tafted.

The fame cannot be faid of their par-Partrid-

tridges; they are fo tough, as to be

good for nothing. I doubt much whe-

ther we ought not rather to call them

wood-hens, for they are the fame fize,

and much about the same colour. They

are fufficiently diftinguished from other

birds of this kind, by two ftrong fours to their feet in beatight soores W. W.

Will tome wine in this place. I I had

Pleased

bas ; sheet and they know all the toads; and Pleased with my foot, I proceeded as far as the village of Sor, which gives Village of name to the island. Before I could get thither, I was obliged to cross two marigots: these are rivulets with which the whole country is interfected in fuch a manner, that one cannot advance above two vor three paces, without being obfuncted. I had contrived an expedient, Paffage owhen they were not too deep; which wer two marigots. was, to make my Negroes carry me lover. On this occasion Is made use of it i one of them took me upon his foulders wand as his clothes did not incommode him greatly, he was quickly up to his breaft in water; fo that he wafted me liman inflant, as if he was running a rrace lover the first marigot. which was broader than the Seine at Pont-Royal Thus was I mounted, if Lamay be permitted the term and it is the afafest method of croffing. because the Negroes are used to walk through these watry plains, as upon land. tom.

1749. fand, and they know all the roads: and indeed, as I had no other conveyance in croffing a river of a lake of a middling depth , I shall repeat it no thicket, I was abilited metals two stores

gets a chicle are requient with which the

eat of the

.brisi

Notwithstanding the care I had taken, my those got, wat, but were not long a drying. I had to walk on fands, which it would be incorrect to dall by any other epithet than burning, fines even in the most moderate weather, they experience there a heat of 60 degrees and nowards, as I afterwards found by the observations which I sempulously followed with M. de Resumur's thermometer. A person may make an effay by getting such a heat in his feet, at a time when that of the ambient air is 22 degrees in the flude, as it was then in the illand of Senegal the roth of May, one of the colden winterdays is that country : it is easy then to judge of the extreme fensibility of an European, transplanted from a

tem-

temperate climate, to the hottest part 1749. of the globe. My shoes grew tough like a horn, then cracked, and fell away Effect of to powder: even the feet of my negroes were chopped. The very reflection of the heat of the fun pecled the flein off my face, and gave me a finarting, which fometimes lasted five or fix days. Such were the ordinary effects of the great heat I had to fuffer, when I undertook this ramble over the diffrict of Senegal: effects which increase in contian by fisch a manner, that the heat of the place instead of 22 degrees, mounted to 34 in the shade, that is, in the coldest air: To these inconveniences I Inconvemust add that of the quick fands, niency of the fands. which are excellively fatiguing, be canse you fink up to your ancle; and your shoes being filled therewith, become intolerably heavy and troublefome. Then, for the first time, I percrived the use of that thick skin, thicker than the breadth of a finger, with

with which mature has ftrengthened the foles of the negroes feet, whereby they are secured against the hardness of external bodies, so as to have no occasion for shoes. Yet I accustomed myself by degrees to this kind of fatigue: for there is nothing but what one may compais with a good will; and this was not wanting.

of the great heat I had to fullely when

The author's reception by the gover-nor of Sor.

mency of

achilla.

After these vicissitudes of a passage through thorns, rivers, and burning fands, where I courfed and herborized all the way, I arrived at length at the village of Sor. There I found the governor, whom the negroes distinguished by the name of Borom-dek, that is, mafter of the village. He was a: venerable old man, about fifty, with a grey beard, and hoary locks. When I call him an old man, of fifty, this is because the negroes of Senegal are really old at the age of forty-five, and oftentimes fooner: and dire

I remember to have heard the French 1749. inhabitants of Senegal fay several times, that according to the best of their obfervation, the negroes of that country feldom lived to be older than fixty: which agrees exactly with the remarks I endeavoured to ascertain during my stay at Senegal. But to return to the master of the village of Sor; he was a lufty, well looking man, whose phyfiognomy bespoke him a person of gentle manners and great good nature. His name was Baba-Sec: he was fitting on the fand, under the shade of a jujube +, planted before his hut, where he was finoaking and converting with a few friends. As foon as he faw Manner of me, he rose up, presented his hand to saluting among the me thrice, then laid it upon his fore-negroes. head, and afterwards upon his breaft, afking me each time, in his language, how I did. I performed the fame

CY

Har dure control many color ississed artal + Jujuba aculeata, nervofis foliis infra fericeis flavirs. Burm. Thez. Zeyl. p. 131. Tab. 61.

ceremony myfelf at the fame times because I understood that such was the manner of faluting in this country. He did not take off his cap, for he wore none: as to my part I followed the French custom, which is never to take off our hats to people of his complexion. He ordered a mat to be fet before me, and I fat down: then he placed himself in one of the corners; and notwithstanding all I could do, there was no prevailing on him to draw towards the middle. This is a mark of respect they shew the heFrench, French, whom they look upon as great people; that is, as great lords, and far their superiors. Indeed they are not much in the wrong; and this kind of submission ought to be encouraged as much as possible *; so I did not press him hard. Two of his wives (for polygamy is established in that coun-

^{*} But that, among many other political arts of the French, can be only, at least, best effected under some well established government, such as that they had in Senegal and its dependencies.

TO SENEGAL, &c.

try) came inimediately after with their 17 children, to pay their compliments to me, and they brought me a few bowls full of milk, with eggs and fowls. I drank forme of the milk, and thanked them for the reft. calingonic as proper support the Total Share of huts at Sor.

It was near their dinner time, and Baba-See depended upon my staying In the mean time, my curiolity led me to fee the village. The huts were neither to large nor to near as those I had feen in the ifle of Senegal. In fome, the covering came down almost to the ground, and was kept up before the door by a few stakes, to form a kind of pent-house, which sheltered them from the rays of the fun. In others, the walls were done over with thick mud, mixed with cow-dung, which stunk abominably. The latter had two opposite entrances, each of which was only an oval made in the wall, of a foot and a half diameter, and two feet from the ground. I had E 2

Senegal

1749, found the square doors of the island of Senegal very uneafy; but these were still more so, fince there was no such thing as entering them without doubling my chin to my knees. The infide was in every respect like what I had seen in Senegal. The streets were as irregular as the huts, and very narrow. Notwithstanding the little proportion obferved by those architects, the villages still are very agreeable, because they are planted with trees, which besides the coolness of their shade, refresh the eye with a perpetual verdure: 2000 ods aomor

Children quite na-

The children of both fexes, even fuch as were nine or ten years old, an age at which the marks of puberty begin to thew themselves, were stark naked. The girls had for ornament round their waift a girdle of glass toys, or, where those could not be had, of a requier's * knuckle-

Senegal

A voracious fish, of the nature of a fea-dog. The young requiens are a dish very much liked by the Negroes.

TOSENEGAL, &c.

bones, or of cockle-shells stringed like a 1749. pair of beads. Some perhaps will imagine that those children, in this state of Beads. nakedness, must be dashed at the fight of a stranger: but far from it; you may go up to them, and even play with them, they will give themselves no sawcy airs; and though they are neither shamefaced nor bashful, yet there is nothing in their countenance but what is natural and easy. No doubt but it will be also surprizing to many, that children, who were scarce fix months old, should begin to walk by themselves. It was pleasant to see those little creatures tumbling on the fand before the fun, and creeping on all four like little monkeys, and to hear them utter inarticulately a few words between their teeth, with an air of contentment and pleasure. The women had all a balf-paan round their waift, which served them for a petticoat; but from their waift upwards they were naked. Being generally well made, they have a very good air in this E 3 difha-

VOYAGE

749. dishabille, especially when a person is used to their colour; those who are not accustomed to them, must be content with admiring their hape, which is extremely fine; month and and a det

diving to the the west and along Which way foever I turned my eyes on this pleasant spot, I beheld a perfect image of pure nature; an agreeable for litude, bounded on very fide by a charming landskip; the rural situation of cottages in the midst of trees; the ease and indolence of the Negroes, reclined under the shade of their foreading foliage, the fimplicity of their dress and manners; the whole revived in my mind, the idea of our first parents, and I seemed to contemplate the world in its primeval flate ment right month bed wendy with

He dines ith the overnor Sor.

My mind was agreeably amused with these reveries, when word was brought me, from the governor of the village, that dinner waited for me. Upon which I turned back with my Negroes. eads th

groes, who conducted me through that 1749. labyrinth of cottages, where otherwise I should have been easily lost. I found the governor just on the very spot where I left him, with his children, and a few friends. They fat crofs-legged on the fand, round a large wooden bowl full of confeous; which is a thick-grained pap, made of two forts of millet. He made me fit down by him; then he began to fall to, and thrusting his hand into the dish, he took a handful of coufcoust which he rolled about with his fingers, for want of a fork and foon, a conveniency they have not yet learnt. He invited me afterwards to do the fame. I did not let him press me hard, but followed his example: for I never departed from this principle, that nothing contributes more to gain the confidence and friendship of strangers among whom you refide, than to conform to their customs and manner of living; and I always found my account

tarrant a same

1749. May. in it. The confcous was judged excellent; and one of the most convincing proofs thereof, was, that the dish was soon emptied. For my part I did not judge so savourably of it; nothing that I can think of is more insipid than this dish; and the manner of eating it is every whit as disagreeable. However, I used myself to it; and found it afterwards very good. This single course constituted our whole feast.

When dinner was over, a young she-slave, in her natural habit, presented us all round a bowl full of water, out of which each person drank; and then they made use of it to wash the hand that had persormed the office of a spoon, which is always the right; the left being designed for uses inconsistent with cleanliness. These practices, like polygamy, are a consequence of the precepts of the Mahometan religion, which they have

TO SENEGAL, St.

so far embraced, as its principles are agreeable to their own customs and easy manner of living. I was very much furprized, not to fee any of my landlord's wives eating in company with him, but The wo-I was told, that fuch was the custom of dine with the country, and that no woman ever bands. had that honour done her; because they are perfuaded, like good Mahometans, that there is no paradife for the female fex. Therefore they dined after us, and in the fame manner; that is, without table, plates, table-cloth, spoons, knives, forks, or napkins.

and was not a "title ofcoled with the In order to make my host amends for his good entertainment, I presented him with a few pattes * of iron, and I distributed some glass-toys among his wives and children. He wanted to keep

The patte of iron is the twelfth part of a bar nine feet long; and ferves for money in this county, and of soin annied to describe and sold the one om and delamment of the country.

begin; but I begged him to postpone it till another time, because it was near fun-set. We parted extremely well fatisfied with each other. The guirious in return for the generosity with which I had behaved towards them, attended me upwards of two hundred paces, beating on the drum, to the sound of which all the young people danced in cadence, expressing their joy. At length I tost fight of them, and made all the haste I could back to the island of Senegal.

I was not a little pleased with this my first reception at the lord of Sor's. It convinced me, that there ought to be considerable abatements made, in the accounts I had read and heard every where, of the savage character of the Africans; and I was of opinion, that this should

ditto sin the reason and every the trick to

over

^{*} This is the name the Negroes give to the muficians and drummers of the country.

not extend to the natives of Senegal' 174 This gave me great encouragement to go oftener amongst them; and I was highly delighted to hear a little while after, that a vessel was to set out the month following, to buy some exen at the Musketoe trading-place. An agent belonging to the company, who was entrusted with this commission, engaged me to perform the voyage with him. Accordingly we embarked the 16th of June 16. June, early in the morning, upon the river Niger. We ascended the stream, Voyage to and when we came to the point of the ketoe traisle of Biseche, we began to lose sight place. of the island of Senegal, which is about a league distant from thence. To the right we had the ille of Bifeche, and the wood illand to the left: they were both bordered with mangroves; so that our navigation was as pleafant as if we had been failing through a large avenue of beautiful trees. The mangroves *

Mangles aquatica, foliis subrotundis & puncta-

Mangroves rery extraordi-

have

have fomething to extraordinary in their nature, that I cannot pass them over in filence. The largest of these trees are generally no more than fifty feet high; nary trees. they grow only in the water, and on the banks of rivers where the tide goes up twice a-day. They preferve the verdure of their leaves throughout the year, which may be faid also of most of the trees of this country: but what renders them more remarkable, is the long roots, which issuing out of their lowest branches, hang down to the water, and penetrate into the earth. Then they resemble so many arcades from five to ten feet high, which ferve to support the body of the tree, and even to advance it daily into the bed of the river. These arcades close, and intertwifted, with another, that they form a kind of natural and transparent terrace, railed with fuch folidity over the water, that one might walk upon them, were it not sade forgies aquatica, folis fubrotundis & mincha

LET THE PART THE

that the branches are too much encum-

constants, all together habit a svery Thus we advanced three leagues through mangroves, after which from the marigot of Kiala to that of Torkhod, within four leagues and a half of the island of Senegal, we saw nothing on both banks of the river, but rushes or weeds from ten to fifteen feet high . Torkhod is a village fituate on the left fide of the river Niger, upon a hill of red fand, at the foot of which passeth the marigot that bears its name. This is the only village we could fee the whole way from the island of Senegal. The mangroves had intercepted the profpect of the others, which are fcattered about the low lands overflown by the Niger. The advantageous situation of Prospect of Torkhod, the red colour of the hill, of Tork-

Gramen dactylon bicorne tomentosum maximum, spicis numerosissimis. Sloan. Jam. vol. 1. tab. 15.

ALEX STA

the beauty of the trees, with which it is adorned, and the meadows which it commands, all together afford a very agreeable prospect: The fiftermen belonging to the place brought as forme shell-fish by the French called machorrans , with cels and other fifth which they had catched in their little river. We bought above five dozen, which did not stand us in three demers a-piece, From thence we continued our voyage, meeting with a few more mangroves, on the right bank of the river, till we came within a league of a village called Maka, where there trees terminate.

Profest of

The same day we arrived before sunketoe tra- let at the Mulketoe trading place; where was to be the fale of cattle. This be-

Nhamdla Brafilienfibus, bagre do Rio Lithta--ADIT No. nis. Marogr. p. 149.

Mystus cirrhis sex longissimis, pinna dorsi secunda triangulari. Gronev. Muf. lebib. p. 35. n. 82.

ing the first port we meet with, in going up the Niger, the fame is practifed. here, as at sea by those who pass the tropic: the French, the first time they come this way, are bound to make a prefent to the laptots *; and therefore I gave them the usual gratuity. The Musketoe trading-place is only thirteen leagues to the north + north-east of the island of Senegal. This is a fruitful plain extending on both fides the river as far as the village of Maka, which we left behind us: the whole tract of ground upwards of seven leagues in length, is laid out in spacious meadows, where the inhabitants breed a vaft number of cattle. The name of marigot, of the Marin-Musketoes, is given to a finall river of Muswhich falls into the Niger, a little below the trading-place, because it is full of very high and thick weeds, which serve to harbour a kind of Mus-

goins a fort

editioners very slower from those of * This is the Name given to the Negroes in the fervice of the East India company.

SWELL!

ketoes

ketoes called maringoins. Sometimes those little infects iffue forth from these inaccessible places, in such swarms, that they darken the air. It is very difficult to guard against them, because their fling will penetrate through the compactest woollen stuffs; and the multitudes of them that attack a person all at the same time, cause a prodigious pain, and throw the whole body, as it were, into a ferment. This is one of the greatest in conveniences that all aquatic places are behind us; the whole track olor beiden upworks of feven leagues in length, is

longing to

Flocks be- of The Moors waited for us, within two hundred paces of the north bank of the river, where they were encamped.. All over the country, nothing was to be feen but numerous flocks of oxen, wethers, kid, and camels, which ranged about in full liberty. The day following I went on shore to view the oxen, which seemed to me very different from those of Europe; for most of them were larger and higher legged; but they were particularly

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larly remarkable for a lump of flesh, 1749 which role above a foot on the withers, between the two shoulders. The rams; (which they are not used to castrate) are also of a very peculiar fort. They bear no resemblance to our French rams, except in their head and tail; but as to their fize, and hair, they are more like a goat : the latter animal has nothing remarkable. The flesh of both is extremely delicate, but often too perfumed. It feems that a fleece of wool would have been inconvenient to sheep in so hot a country; and therefore, nature has changed it for thin hair of moderate length. the momen were consued to their

As I rambled among those nume-Their rous flocks, I found myfelf approach-tents. ing towards the adouar; a name they give to a cluster of tents, where the Moors are lodged. These tents are all round in the form of a cone, and made

1749. June. of goats and pamels hair, impenetrable to the rain. They were ranged near to one another in a circular form, each supported by a pole in the middle, and fixed all round with thongs of ox skin, sastened to stakes about a foot from the ground. The inside of them was hung with several rows of mats, secured on one side by the tents, and on the other by their moveables: the latter consist of a sew borrachoes containing their cloaths, their milk, and butter; in short all their provisions, and a sew pieces of calabashes, which serve for utensils.

Character of the Moorish women.

While the men looked after their nattle, the women were confined to their tents, where they employed their time in churning butter, in spinning, and taking care of their children and other domestic concerns. They are of an olive complexion, with very regular features, and large sparkling eyes; their hair is long and plaited , forme have it hang 1749 ing down, and others tied up. I They seemed to be well made, though small; and a great deal more referved than the Negroe women. The men are Character not much taller than the Negroes; but

they differ in their colour, which is red er a red brown ; in their hair, which

is of a middling length, curled, and much thicker; and especially in their

muscles, which appear more under their fkin they have also a more meager

face, with less fieth, and their skin is not to imooth. The dress both of men Their

and women, confiles in a long thirt of black linen, and a page, with which the women cover their head and shoul-

dere in the men formetimes roll it a

bout their bodies like a waift-band, and lometimes round their heads, in

imitation of a mibant. This paan is not always black and made of cotton; there are a great many men who wear

it of white wool, and oftentimes edged bearl F 2

with

lune. Their frugality.

1749.

with red. I spoke once already of the repast I made with the Negroes; but the Moors are no way inferior to them in frugality. Their ordinary food is milk, either of camels, cows, goats, or sheep, with millet; and very often milk and gum alone is their whole repast, and serves them for mest and of a middling length, curled, shirth much thicker; and especially in their

Though two months were not yet elapsed fince my coming to Schegals I nevertheless had an opportunity of seeing, and forming forme judgment sat leaft as much as avas necessary, for the time present, of two nations, the most distant in their customs and manner of living of all those that inhabit this part of Africal namely, the Moors and the Negroes. b.In both I had obferved great humanity and fociableness, which gave med strong whopes, that Lighould when very fafor among them, and meet with the fuecels I do fired F 2 with

fired in my inquiry, after the curiofities 17 of their country lamed saure or rebie

walk, and to quench their thirtheplacks The next day I went a herborizing and courfing over the beautiful fields on the opposite bank of the river. At that Fields of time they were covered with a large let. kind of millet, called guiar-natt*, or Gunea corn: it was now almost ripe. and the Negroes had covered the ears with its own leaves, to thelter it from the sparrows, which do a great deal of mischief in this country. It was no fmall labour to walk across those spacious fields of milles the stalks being very large and compact, and full eight feet high. The hear was quite stifling, for not the least breath of air could be perceived amidst those high plants; and the fun, at a very little diffance from the zenith, darted his rays ala most delightful prospect. The foot

Milium arundinaceum, fuhrotundo fémine forgo nominatum. C. B. Pin. 26.

most

malt perpendicularly. My Negroes, in order to amuse themselves in this long walk, and to quench their thirst, plucked leveral intire stalks of millet, and fucked the juice, after stripping it of its hulk. They gave me some to taste, and I found it for sweet and pleasant, that I quickly followed their example, I do not at all doubt but the stalks of millet, prepared in the same manner as fugar canes, would afford a very proper juice for making fugar, ni reidelini to

Village called Depleur.

finally labour to wilk actors chole fine At length, after walking helf an hour without feeing any thing but plants all round me I arrived at the foot of a little hill, whereon was built a village, which the Negroes call Depleur. I had viewed it from the bank of the river, where it afforded a most delightful prospect. The foot of this hill was all of pure red fand, and intirely planted with gardens. At that noff

of multirooms peculiar to hot countries, and not at all inferior in fize Gardens belonging to those of cold climates, but great to the Negroes. In the two species of Indian ketmia †, the green and the red, grow there extremely well; they are shrubs four or five feet high, and resemble ours only in the taste. The rest of the ground is covered with tobacco, and French beans.

pare 184 marga analysis. As the fame

From these gardens, I proceeded to the village, without intending to make any stay there, because it did not appear to me, to differ from those I had seen already. As it is not much frequented by the French, by reason of its distance from the river, the little The chilcheld the chilcheld any the standard, who had never beheld any tened at seeing a

Plum. Cat. p. 2. white.

17173

F 4 white

1749. white people, were frightened greatly at feeing me; and ran away as fast as they could, to feek for shelter between their mothers legs : at the same time they gave very loud cries, which did not frighten me much, because I soon discovered the cause. Yet I got a little out of the way, to avoid the frightful noise occasioned by my presence; when a woman, who faw me gathering fruit in the garden, thought to oblige me, by bringing me fome of a fort greatly esteemed in that country. At the same time, the conducted me into the middle of the village, where stood the tree from which she had plucked them. It was very large, but not high: by its fupple pendant boughs, and long thorns, I knew it to be the agibalid of Profper Alpinus *: . the Negroes call it

A very ex- soumpe. As I stopped to view this fcene hap-tree, I was quickly furrounded by a number of boys and girls, whom

Agihalid. P. Alp. Egyp. vol. ii. p. 20. 34311101

curiofity had drawn togetherd Some out of respect, and forme out of fear, kept themselves at a distance others were familiar enough to come near me, and to alk for glass trinkets; for thele, as I observed before, are the merchandife and ornament which the Negroes chiefly delight in. Most of them had never feen a white man fo near; forme touched my cloaths and my linen; others took hold of my hat and of my hair which I wore in a bag, thinking it impossible it should grow to fuch a length as they faw it about my cars; others, in thort, felt the bag itfelf, and affed me for tobacco, with which they thought it to be filled, because of its being so very like a little fquare leather bag, wherein they are accustomed to carry tobacco upon their breafts : but how, great was their furprize, upon feeing me stake off my bag when iny hair fell down to my waift. The liberty I gave them to examine 1540

with in regardate the presented we of the bag, and to mys hair, who length of which they are longer doubted solve when they are its really fallened to my head, and the long head.

This extraordinary and unexpected feene, occasioned my making feveral refections as I went from thence. It came into my head; that my colour, so oppofite to the blackness of the Africans, was the first thing that struck the children those poor little creatures were then in the fame cafe as our infants, the first time they fan a Negroe. I recalled to mond also, that the second thing which supplized the yest, was the length and thickness of my hair, compared to theirs. which looks like very fine curled wooks and in the last place, which weight and confirmint of my apparel, which after all, confifted only of a very light callico waiftcost of The reader will no longer be saims

Cult-

be surprised that some of them should alk me for merchandize, and tothers for tobacco, when he is informed, that Negroes of every age, see, and condition, are used to ask even the smallest tribes of the whites, when they cannot pilter them. It is with good reason said, that they are the most artful beggers, and the most dexterous thieves, in the universe but would be the universe but were the most dexterous thieves, in

Instead of following the road I had Plants in the neighbourhood let, so go to Depleur, I returned by the Musterostrading-place. I saw there only place trading-place of ew gums trees, a prodigious quantity of tamarilles like those of Narbonne, the same species of sensitive plant, which the Negroes call guerachiao, that is, good morrow, because, say they, when you touch it, or draw near to speak to it, the plant immediately inclines

Sefban. P. Mp. Egypt. v. 2. p. 12.00 110

Callin continued trial of the very light cachecol

the neigh-

its deaves to with your ashit were, as goodembrows sind ito heworthat it lis ferfible of the politeness donecits Among the herbs with which the meadow is frewed, I took notice of the juliea * of arimart to chickweed t, sindo feveral species of mollago; of a great many forts of grafe, of the coldenia | sand a finall fenfitive plant, rampant, and not spinous; infinitely more delicate and fentible than all the species that I know.

Infread of following the road I had Plane in basefund lid did not neglect the following days to vifit the neighbouring villages and fields, where II found great plenty of a kind of Annibi hitherto unknown to botanists, which the Moors call guerfeman is and adarge species of sensitive

Juffiera erecta, floribus tetrapetalis octandris feffilibus. Linn. H. Zeyl 170 m bong at mais

t Perficaria maderaspatana, longiore folio sur-suto. Pluk. Phytogr. tab. 210. fig. 7.

Alfine lotoides ficula. Bocc. rar. pl. 20.

Coldenia. Linn. H. Zeyl. 69.

and beliance Rickly, dispute visal b. it is there guer-

its

TOSENEGAL, &c.

zim. I likewise discovered a confiderable number of other new plants; but it would be of no use to mention them here, as I intend to give their description and figure in a particular work nined note which who hearn stow

immediately take wag. Thefe There are a great many wild boars Birds calin those parts, but I never could come gu. up with any of them. I killed several of those birds, which the French call large-eyes: and indeed, they are of a largeness that has no fort of proportion to the head. In the form of their body, and of their feet, which are split into three toes, they are very like a builtard! they are as large as a hen, and their feathers are of an all grey, mixed With white but her flesh is render, and may be carentials could not avoid have ing very good sport in the meadow, for there a ishiplenty of game ; ibut litt was His sportinterrupted every moment, by the loud ing interand importunate cries of a kind of bird, noily birds.

led large-

con-

which

which the Negroes call unt-uett, the French, fquallers or bawlers, because as foon as they fee a man, they fet up a loud screaming, and keep flying round him, as if their intent was to warn the other birds, which upon hearing the cry, immediately take wing. These birds are the bane of sportsmen, who are fure to find the place clear of all game foon after their arrival. In short, they put me into a paffion, which coft them very dear; for as they always fly in pairs, I killed feveral brace. There were two forts; and neither of them hardly exceeded the bigness of a pigeon; but they were high-legged, and had a very long neck. The colour of one was afti-grey, on the back and wings, the rest of their body was altogether white. The other had their wings and part of mon sit the tail black; and their handlers were armed with a small horn of the fame colour, very long of the mape and hard

con-

which

TO SENEGAL, Sc.

confishency of a spur, which served them as as an offensive and defensive weapon against the other birds is shiften adainst

plies, spent to clushe at application and

We were now in the eighth day of Return to our voyage, when we finished our buff of Senegal ness, and thought of returning to the illand of Senegal. The Moors, who had repaired to this place, only to fell their cattle, having foraged the country all round, were preparing to encamp on another foot; and even to retire towards the mountains, at a great distance northward of the river, to avoid the inundations with which the first rains of the month of June had lately threatened Their tents were already ftruck, D and, they had put them, together with the h their furniture and utenfils, into facks of leather neatly drefled. The whole was loaded on the backs of camels and oxen, which carried their houses. moveables, wives and children. Such

- STHOO

is the dife the Moors lead, they are never fixed to abspot; their flocks, in which confifts their wholes wealth; isoblige them to change quarters, accordof munos ing as the featons and the nature, of our voyage, when sainpar agenther aind the idend

nels, and changht of returning to the Soon after my return to the island of Senegal, an opportunity offered of going to Podor, a factory belonging to the company, distant from this island fixty leagues or thereabouts, on the riyer Niger. The veffel was to go and return without flopping; yet I went on board. My Negroes did not want follicitation to follow me to they joined with the ship's company. We set sail the 30th of June, alcending the river, nearly from west to east. The winds to favourable, that we arrived in three days at Podor. As fo expedidous a navigation did not allow me opportunity of taking a plan of the courfe

course of the river. I observed the different widths of its bed, and of the mouths of rivers that empty themselves into it, Precauthe angle which the latter form in their taking a difemboguing, the islands we found by course of the way, and their length: I likewise the river. founded their depth; in short, I neglected nothing that was capable of rendering my observations most accurate. For this purpole I made use of the compais to mark the changes of direction in its course, measuring from time to time its velocity, or that of the veffel : fometimes I added to thefe two methods an estimate of the greatness of the distances, in which I had every conveniency, and met with all the fuccess I could wish. If we except a few shoals here and there in the bed of the Niger, which may be eafily avoided when the winds are not quite contrary, one is fure of finding it navigable throughout. Though it was then at its greatest ebb, yet it -basi

was

July-

1749. was from twenty to thirty feet and more deep. The fea-water, which flows every common year as high up as the mariget of the Musketoes, that is, about fifteen leagues from the month of the river, had reached this year as far as the defert, that is, upwards of thirty leagues. This is about the distance where the falt water ftops : but the The tide tide is perceived a great deal higher ed at Po- up; it reaches as far as Podor, where it is visible by the rising of the Sells water, which is fubject to the fame vicifitudes of tide, but at less equal periods. The highest flood which I measured on the banks of the fee, near the island of Senegal, is that two feet and a half vin the great equino above 60 tial tides. It fearns therefore that the Niger from Podor to the fea, that is, in a course of fixty leagues, has notes inclination of above two foot and a balf; fo that there is reason to believe that this intire track of land, excepting the

fand-

is perceivdor,

leagues from the coaft.

ut selv

TOSENEGAL. GC.

fand-hills scattered here and there, forms 1749 a plain excessively low and flat, and of fuch a level, that if the fea was to rife every where alike from twenty to thirty feet, the whole country would be overflowed by of the minimum of the

The fort of Podor is built on the Fort of fouth bank of the river Niger, on a fpot heretofore covered with wood; but the great quantity which the French have cut down for upwards of ten years, that they have been fettled there, has removed the forest farther back to the distance of a small half league. Here are most beautiful tamarifics, red gum trees, and feveral other forts of thorny accepted, the wood of which is extremely wood of hard, and in the colour and beauty of its try. veins, not unlike those which we use in intaid work. The button-tree, of a very different species from that of America, grows here very common. The case with which this tree receives the tool, G 2

1749. and its fine yellow render it preferable to all other forts of wood in Fertility of joiner's work. It is known among the foil. the Negroes by the name of kbofs. The rich foil of this country is a great encouragement to gardening. And indeed the French have planted several which thrive amazingly, fuch as orange, citron, lemon, fig, and pomegranate-trees, belides guava's, anana's, papaws, and four-fops *, and a fpecies of cashew-nut, which passeth for one of the best fruits-trees that grow in hot countries. The different legumes of Europe thrive here in great perfection. They have plenty of potoes which multiply greatly insistet

bire.

marthy lands, where they have been

once

^{*} Anona maxima, foliis latis splendentibus; fructu maximo, viridi conoide, tuberculis seu spinulis innocentibus aspero. Sloan. Jam. vol. 2. tab. 225. fig. 1.

once planted. This root ferves them instead of chestnuts, which it great—
ly excels in goodness and delicacy of taste. The acidity of the other fruits furnishes them with a juice, more suited to the inhabitants of a warm climate.

two little thicks, mounted both tore-

During the few days that I staid at Remarkon Podor, the thermometer gave me one degree of heat more, than I had selt on the island of Senegal before my departure: it marked from thirty to thirty-one degrees. The fifth of July, it was still at thirty degrees at seven o'clock in the evening after sun-set, in the coldest exposition of the open air to the north, declining to the east.

The same day two oftriches, which surprizing had been bred hear two years in the the oftrich. factory, afforded me a fight of so extraordinary a nature, as to deserve a place in this narrative. These gigantic G 3 birds

birds I had feen only by the way, as I travelled over the burning fands on the left of the Niger, but now I had a full view of them at my cafe. Though they were but young, still they went very near of an equal fize with the largest. They were so tame, that two little blacks, mounted both together on the back of the largest : no Copner did he feel their weight, than he began to run as fast as ever he could, till he carried them feveral times round the village; and it was impos fible to flop him, otherwise then by obstructing the Passage. This fight pleased me so well, that I would have it repeated: and to try their Strength I made a full grown Negros mount the smallest, and two others the largeft. This burden did not feem to me at all disproportioned to their strength. At first they went a pretty high trots when they were heated a little. they expanded their wings as if it were Leinid

were to catch the wind, and they mo- 1749. ved with fuch fleetness, that they seemed to be off the ground. Every body must fome time or other have feen a partridge run, confequently must know there is no man whatever able to keep up with it; and it is easy to imagine, that if this bird had a longer step, its speed would be considerably augmented. The offrich moves like the partridge, with both these advantages; and I am fatisfied that those I am fleaking of, would have distanced the fleetest race-horses that were ever bred in England. It it true they would not hold out to long as a horse; but without all doubt they would be able to perform the race in less time. I have frequently beheld this fight, which is capable of giving one an idea of the prodigious strength of an oftrich and of thewing what use it might be of, had we but the method of breaking and managing it as we do a horse. G 4

I was not fo long in falling down the river to the island of Senegal, as I had been in going up to Podor. The north-east winds, and the current of the streams, which had been confiderably swelled by the late rains, proved so favourable to us, that we seized the opportunity to make the best of our way back, without stopping or going ashore. Yet I did not repent this first voyage; for I learnt thereby the many advantages I might derive from a fecond, and even from a third. In taking a plan of the river bordering Niger, I had reckoned nine or ten villages on the north bank, and forty-feven on the fouth. A river from two to three hundred fathoms broad, the banks planted with trees of various kinds, and the leaves in perpetual verdure; the numerous droves of elephants walking on its borders; the fea horses, the crocodiles, with an in-

Villages on the Nidinary animals, and a far greater number of birds remarkable for the brightness and variety of their colours; all this together seemed to open an ample field for new and important observations.

cannot use the

At my return to the island of Sene-He returns gal the 1 cth of July, I perceived the to the effect of the rains, which had fallen in Senegal. wast abundance for forme days. The fwell of the river was fo fudden, that the 10th there was a return of fresh water at its mouth; where, two days before, the water was perfectly falt. This term ferves to divide the year into two feafons, which differ very little Two feafrom one another. The first is, when fone at Seit does not rain at all, and when the waters of the Niger are spoiled by those of the fea! this begins in December. and ends in June or July. The second is, when it is subject to rains, and the the river

ontains off

to besti

river water is fresh .. The rains feldon last more than three months; they liegin at the end of June, and end in the month of Septemben visites but the

this together feemed to open an am-If the word Summer belongs to the hottest, and that of Winter, to the the coldest weather; I cannot see the scafon why all our ancient voyagers give the name of firmmer, to the dry feafon under the torrid featon, and that of winter to the miny feafon: for it is certain, and I know it by observations performed with the thermometer, during the space of five years, that the greatest heats are generally in the rainy feafon, to which they have given the name of winter, The French at Senegal, who perceived the error into which voyagers were fillen, attempted modefly to corred it by changing the word furmer into that of low feelin, that is, when the waters of the Nigeo are low; and they have given the name of bigb feafon, to the

Frager.

the winter of the mancions, because the waters of the Niger are then very high. Without oxamining into this error, which has been blindly embrased by most of the writers on natuful hiltory in our time, and being diffused through their principal works, has long had a confiderable effect on the frady of natural philosophy, and particularly on meteorological knows ledge, a branch at this time to greatly embroiled : I shall be satisfied here with observing that this mistake reduises a fevere animadversion. I shall therefore, with the French inhabiting Senegal, give the name of low feafor to that of drought, and bigb leefon to that of the rains; or still in order to conform to the terms received in Europe, and to be understood by all the world, I shall diffinguish the former by the name of Summer, and die latter by that of winter; for that thefe two dealogs with be at Senegal; pretty

pretty much about the fame time as in France. These two are therefore the only feafons they are subject to; they know neither fpring nor autume. When I make use of the word Winter, the reader is not to imagine that they have any hail, fnow or ice: thefe are things they are strangers to at Senegal; nor is it possible, whatever comparison you make to give the natives of the country the least idea of them. The winter in The win- Senegal is only a feafon not so warm as the rest of the year, though it is always fummer in warmer than our fummers in France, in

ter in Senegal is hotterthan France.

To return to the waters of the Ni ger, which gave occasion to this short digreffion: they are falt one half of the year towards the island of Senegal. As the country is very low, and has neither rocks, or frones, but only quick fands, Wells in for this very reason it has no springs: of Senegal, they are therefore obliged to dig wells, pretty which

we rarely fee any frow or hail.

Senegal, give the same of he has

the island

which indeed do not give them much is trouble, for they find water within three or four, and oftentimes within two feet depth; but then it is brackish, that is, it has a saltish taste, communicated to the sands by the proximity of the sea.

Sentiabliance file anne denotation for beit

July.

The 8th of August the sun passed Augustine perpendicularly over our heads; and our Passage of shadows were exactly under our feet the fun in This was the fecond time I beheld this phoenomenon fince my arrival at Senegal: the first time I faw it was on the fourth of May; and it was to return every year much about the fame The heat it occasioned at its return from the tropic of Cancer towards the Equator, was much greater than that which we felt at its first pasfage: for the thermometer marked the nights of the month of May at 22 degrees, and the days from 26 to 28; whereas the nights of August were at 26 degrees, and the days at 32

finet

The

2491 The minth of August, and the for lowing days, I walked about in the neighbourhood of the illand of Sene gal, and returned to the fland of Sor, of which mention has been made already. Our European boats appearing to me too heavy and cumbersome, alianus to make use of them every day in pasfing that river; I therefore thought proper to exchange them for a kind of Negroe cance, which the French call pirogue. These little boats are made all of one piece of wood, that is, the trunk of a tree cut line a hollow veffel, and very light. They are from ten to thirty feet long, from one to two feet in breadth and depth, and both ends terminate in a point. Mine was one of the largest. As foon as I got into it, my two Negroes placed themselves at both extremities, one at the prow and the other at the Rem. For my part I put myfelf in the middle, where I had no other feat but

Negroe canoes.

but a piece of wood laid atcrofs, which was fastened at both ends into the fides of the pirpgue. My Negroes had each a paddle in their hands: these are imall flat boards, laid a-cross one another, and fixed to the end of a flick, which they make use of for rowing. The Negroe at the prow was flanding, and beat the water behind him with his paddie: the other was feated and freered with his As foon as we weathed the epposite there, they draw the pirogue a ground; this is the only way the people of the country have to fecure these little vessels against the waves, which would foon fill them with wa- 1 to and ter; whereas they cannot so much as wer them, when they are far enough Hom the thore are in 21 of y saibro about feary fact: that is truck was of

vid bulas not long in croffing over, and immediately I directed my steps to the village of Sor. There I met with a very good reception, according to cuftom:

tom; and Ladelized they would thew me the properest places for coursing. That very day I had diffmiffed my interpreter; because I had acquired a fufficient imattering in the language of the country, to be able to understand all that the Negroes faid to me, and to explain my mind to them. They carried me to a particular spot, where I faw a herd of antilopes; but I laid a fide all thoughts of fport, as foon as I perceived a tree of a prodigious thickness, which drew my whole attention. This was a calabath-tree .

which the Jaloffes call goui in their language. There was nothing extraordinary in its heigth; for it was only about fixty feet: but its trunk was of a prodigious thickness of extended my immediately believed to the theory to the

tom;

The or guiblothe distribute book was

Bahobab. P. Alp. vol, ii. p. 37.8 ho agalliy

drends as wide ale possibly I could, thir 1749. teen times, before I embraced its circumference; and for greater exactness, I measured it afterwards round with packthread, and found it to be fixtyfive feet! confequently the diameter was near twenty two. I do not believe this the like was ever leen in any other part of the world; and I am perfinded, that if our ancient voyagers had been vacquained with this tree in they would have added fome furprifing circonfitances to its description. It is very extrabrdinary, that this tree should have been entirely forgot by those who have given us the history of Stragal; icho cially, as there is shoully any other for common in the country. Out of the trunk I have been describing, of twenty two feet in diameter, and from eight to twelve feet high, there if fued forth feveral branches, fome of which extended themselves horizonnde. H · tally,

1749-August.

tally, so that the ends of them reached the ground : these being the largest, were from forty-five to fifty-five feet in length. Each of those branches would have made one of the largest trees in Europe; in thort, the whole of this calabath-tree feemed to form a forest of itself. This was not all: the Negroe, my guide, led me to a fecond, which was fixty-three feet in circumference, that is, bue and twenty in diameter: and one of its roots, which had been for the most part laid bare by a neighbouring river, was a hundred and ten feet in length; without reckoning the part that lay hid under the water, and which I could not uncover. The fame Negroe shewed me a third, not very far from thence; and moreover added, that without going out of the island, I might see a great many more, not at all inferior to those in magnitude. 4214

tude. My furprize was then at an 1749 end; and, fatisfied with feeing three, I got ready for the chace. to make the land of the state of the state of

I was prevented from going farther The author furby an easterly wind, which rose all of a prized in fudden with fuch fury, that it feemed form. as if it would tear up the trees by the root. These gusts of wind are generally fore-runners of rain; and this brought a thick cloud along with it, which burst immediately. The village was at some distance, so that there were no hopes of reaching it time enough. My Negroes feeing there was no place of shelter for them, threw off their paans, and plunged into a little river which passed close by the spot. This is their custom, whenever they are caught in a storm, to jump into the water, rather then run the risk of being wet by the rain, dreading its bad effects. For my part, having RANGO H 2 neither

neither time nor inclination to follow them, I retired under one of the largest calabash-trees then in fight reckoning I should be as fafe there as under the roof of a house. The rain poured down with fuch violence, that it feemed as if heaven and earth were coming together; every drop that fell, expanded itself a whole hand's breadth on the ground. I felt nothing of the first efforts of this storm: but a few minutes lafter, when the tree came to be well foaked, I was overwhelmed by the water that guthed out of its branches; and their different fituations formed for many bells, from whence rathed forth whole torrents, which uniting on the valt furface of the trunk, discharged themselves from thence like a river. The reader may eafily imagine, de could have me fine time of it, to flay under this tree; I therefore got away from thence as quick A Miller 此類

quick as possible, and stood in the 1749. open field, where I did not fare much. better for I was exposed to the whole violence of the florm, which lafted a full hour; and at my return to the island of Senegal, I was informed, that there fell two inches three lines of water who grade concern cheek perfect test right behind also wind, without any

"The river Niger being arrived at its highest increase, overslowed all the country round the illand of Senegal, fo as to render it impaffable. Being therefore obliged to relinquish my walks, I faw but one way to employ the long interval of time that the inundation was to last; and this was, to go over to a country not subject to be overflown. A vessel was ready to sail for Gorce, a fmall island, distant about thirty-five fea leagues, fouth-fouth-east from the illand of Senegal, and very near Cape Verd. I thought I could H 3

1749. August.

He embarks for the island of Goree. do nothing better than to embrace fo favourable an opportunity; and therefore I embarked. We put to fea the 27th of August, with the wind to the westward, and not all favourable; but a fudden form * burfting upon us one night, with a terrible east wind, drove us with fuch violence, that only putting right before the wind, without any fail at all, we made more way than we had done for feven days before During this tempest we saw a light, which the mariners call the fire of St. Elme: it winded near a minute about the top of the mast, and the extremity of the weather-flag, and then it dispersed. The sailors looked upon it as a lucky omen, which encouraged them to hope that the tempest was

Ignis fa-

05

* We give this name to all tempessuous gusts of wind, accompanied with rain, thunder, and lightning; and we make use of the word by storm, to distinguish those gusts that are without rain.

near

near at an end, and they were not de- 1749 ceived in their expectations. The wind fublided foon after, and the fea was restored to its former tranquillity.

density the schools year countries which

The fourth of September, by break September the 4th. of day, we found ourselves off Cape Sight of Cape Verd. Verd this to me was a new fight, who during four months that I had been at Senegal; had feen no fuch thing as hills, and especially of stone. Soon after this, we espied the Magdalen islands, and that morning we cast anchor in the bay of Goree. This He arrives island confifts of a low narrow piece of island of land, and a small but very steep mountain, the whole the fixth part of a Descripleague in length. Notwithstanding its island. confined extent, the fituation renders it a very agreeable place: towards the fouth you enjoy a prospect, terminated only by the fea; northward, you discover at a dif-H 4 Talling a rock tance

mended

as A. Tab. Sill 541 to

tance Cape Verd, and tall the other capes and neighbouring promontories, Though it is in the torrid zone, yet they breathe a cool and temperate air almost the whole year round: which is owing to the equality of days and nights, and its being continually refreshed by alternate breezes from the land and sea. M. de S. Jean, the director of this island, has embellished it with several fine buildings: he has likewise fortified it, and is adding every day to the works; fo that it is now become impregnable By his diligence, feveral fresh springs have been discovered; the gardens have been planted with excellent fruit-trees of teguines have been made to grow in great plenty; in fhort, by these different advantages, of a finall barren island, he has made it a safe and delightful residence. I had been recom-

mended

Oceanodore Kepple has lately demonstrated our author's mistake.

mended too him by M. de la Brue, his 19 brother, director general of the Bettle ment, and Incould not but in confer quence meet with every kinds of encour ragement. The ment is open and sold regement.

The rocks with which the island of Goree is surrounded, produce an infinite number of shell and other fish, which amused me for some days: after which I embarked the 13th of the same month, on board a small vessel, bound to Portudal, in order to Voyage to trade for oxen and millet. This Port, which the negroes call Sali, is only nine leagues fouth of the ille of Goree. The bar obliged us to anchor within half a league of the shore, that we might not be dashed to pieces. A prerogue landed me without any accident. I found the foil fandy, but of amazing fertility, and all covered with wood Wood of The grewia *, a species of polygala, try.

* Unknown to Europe.

the

Pomudal.

this coun-

1749. the nebreup of Jan and mitheon demboustown to formed a kind of copie over which the monbins I pocori hog-plumtrees, known by the name of fob in the language of that country, raise their heads, loaded with fruit. By its leaves, this has fomething of the appearance of an ash-tree; but it is soon known by its fruit, which in fize, shape and colour, refemble the plumbs of St. Catharine: they were ripe at that time; and I eat some of them, which had Voyage to a tharp, aromatic and very agreeable rafte. I faw also in those parts, several fpinous filk cotton-trees |, known to the inhabitants by the name of benten, and many other large trees. The Negroes had cut down a good deal of

this

⁺ Trees unknown to Europe.

Monbin arbor foliis fraxini, fructu luteo race To boow moso, Plum, gent, p. 440 His bees, williams

Ceyba viticis folio, caudice aculeato. Plum. gen. p. 42. Valencen to Europe.

TOSENEGVAL, &c. this wood to fow fields of finall millet; and it was then almost at its full september maturity.

the ten to not all through water All this fine country abounded with Beauty of the birds. birds of the greatest beauty. The jay which I mentioned already *, was there in flocks; the brightness of its azure feathers, joined to the lively yellowness of the birds called cardinal sparrows, with which all the fields were covered, had an admirable effect. Here was the only kind of fnail + that ever I observed in the whole country. I found it very frequently in an open meadow, fall of rulhes and fea ambrofia: I faw even many of them alive, at the foot of the neighbouring trees, where they were enjoying the shade. It is a thing worthy

• Page 24-

widod .

ball oday caoscour guinor

⁺ See the natural history of univalve shells, kind 5th; the fail, plate 1, fig. 1. Kambeul.

1749. of observation, Mand which belowbiles will appear furpriling, that in fuch a vaft extent of wooded country, there should be but one fort of shail, while we meet with fo great a variety in tembirds of the greater. perate climates. which Imendence dieady ", was then

The French have never a factory at Portudal; but when they go to trade there, they land at the Alker's, or the governor of the village, who owns a great number of cottages. He appointed one for me, where I took up my quarters. One night when I was fast asleep, I was wakened by a horrid fhricking which threw the whole village into an Death of a uproar. Immediately I inquired what was the matter; and was told; that they were bewalling the death of a young woman, who had been bit abont four leagues off by a ferpent, and died of the poilon in less than two

hours:

do

Negroe

woman.

hours; and that her body had been 1749 just now removed to her cottage. The first shrick was made, according to custom, by one of the female relations of the deceased, before her door, which was very near to mine. At this fignal, all the women in the village came out, and fetting up a most terrible howl, they flocked about the place from whence the first noise had issued. One would have imagined, that they were all related to the deceafed, fo greatly did they feem to grieve and month; and, undoubtedly, this would have been a firing proof of their concern, if these lamentations had come from the bottom of their thearts but they were no more than outward thow, and merely the effect of national cuftom. This shocking noise lasted some hours, that is, till break of day: then the relations of the deceafed coming into

LAMA

nies at

1749, into the cottage, took hold of her hand, and asked her several questions, which were followed by offers of service: but finding that the made them no anthey withdrew, faying: Alas! the is dead. Her friends did the fame; afterwards they conveyed her body their funeinto the ground; and on each fide they put an earthen pot, one full of water, and the other of coufcous: this without doubt was intended for her nourishment, in case she should once more take it into her head to eat or to drink. When the burial was over. the cries, and lamentations ceafed. Thus ended the lugubrious ceremony: their thoughts were now turned towards making an entertainment in honour of the deceased; and that same evening Dance up they had a folgar, or a dance, which they continued for three nights succesfively: it was conducted in this man-

cafion.

ner: the fir dions of the defe educered described the first of the old 1749

All the young people of the village gathered together in a large area, in the middle of which they had lighted a great fire. The spectators formed a long fquare, at both ends of which the dancers were ranged in two oppofite lines, the men on one fide, the women on the other. There were two tabours to regulate the dance; and as foon as they had beat a march, the performers began a fong, the burden of which was repeated by all the spectators. At the same time a dancer stepping forth from each line, advanced towards the opposite person that pleafed him moft, to the distance of two or three feet, and presently drew back in cadence, till the found of the tabour served as a signal for them to come close, and to strike their thighs against each other, that

(; All

1949.

is, man to woman, and woman to man: this done, they draw back once more, and foon after renewed the fame monkey tricks, divertifying their mou ments as often as the rabour directed them, till at length they returned to their place. The other performers did the fame, each in their turn, but without a repetition, then the two lines drew near to one another, and acted their part in the same manner. That these gestures are very immodest, is obvious; but the other movements, which are hardly perceived, unless one is used to them, must be much more fo. The Negroes do not dance a frep, but every member of their body, every joint and even the head itself, expressed different motion, always keeping time. let it be never to quick. And it is in the exact proportioning of this infinite number of metions, that the Ne groes dexterity in dancing chiefly confifts:

their agility. Notwithstanding the violence of this exercise, it lasted a good part of the night, during which they drank off feveral pots of a very ftrong fort of beer made of millet. They began the same scene the two nights following, and the third their entertainments ceased. An European, on such an occasion, would have gone into mourning for fome months; while the African seizes this opportunity to rejoice: fuch are the whimfical customs of different nations; what produceth joy and pleasure to one, is a fubject of grief to anogreen the naves incling like a ridge

I had landed very eafily upon my rate arrival at Portudal, because the sea bar of Forward was gentle and calm: but at my beating a return I was much embarrassed how

1740. September.

how to reach our vessel; as there was then a great fwell, and the agitation of the waves upon the bar, rendered it very dangerous and difficult to get over. We ventured nevertheless in a large pirague, the agent for the company, a few patiengers, and myfelf; who were prepared to empty the water as fast as it came in, with half calabashes. The boat was thus laden, when a wave drove on shore, and lifted it off, with the affultance of four Negroes, all good fwimmers; they pulhed it forwards with their whole might, and leaged in as fast as the part where they were to row entered the water. We soon found ourselves in a very high sea when the waves fwelling like a ridge of hills, drove against the piroque, and washed it all over. We worked hard, and with recent refolation, to empty is againg and indeed we had enough

enough upon our hands, while the 17 Negroes rowed with all their might, Se to avoid the waves, which came rolling upon them. Now the piroque raised its prow upon the back of a billow, while its ftern funk deep into the water: now it was supported as it were at both ends on the edge of two different waves: now only the middle of it was fuspended upon a rolling furge, so that the extremities feemed to be poized in the air. In this manner, apprehending every moment to be overlet and inevitably loft, we got over the bar, with great good fortune, and went on board the veffel, which carried us to the ille of Goree, where we arrived the 24th of September, about night fall.

Two days after, M. de Saint Jean, Excursion intending to favour me with an ex-Magdalen cursion to the Magdalen islands, dichorus

flant

1749 flant a league from Goree, fitted out a veffel, on which I embarked along with him and fome officers of his department. Of these two islands only one is acceffible; the other is a naked fleep rock, very high above the furface of the water, and all white with the ordure, which plungeons, gulls, and other fea-fowls, leave behind them. The chief Magdalen island, though finall, might be inhabited, if it had but a harbour; but it is acceffible only by a fmall creek, full of rocks; and generally tempertuous. This creek forms a kind of long canal, which terminates in a natural bason of an oval figure, hollowed in the rock, twelve feet deep, and twelve fathoms long, with transparent water, where one may bathe in fafety. The island is only one continued mountain, almost round, and like that of Goree: it has also two small fprings which are dried up in the winter. The prospect from thence is very beautiful

ful and extensive, and the air extremely 1749. fresh: but it would not be worth while to stay there for this alone. Its rocks serve for a receptacle to an infinite number of ringdoves, natural to that country, and which differ from those of Europe, only in the superior delicacy and tafte of their flesh.

sold a sold selection at the selection of the selection o Having already observed that the Indolence Negroes are negligent and idle to ex- gross. cess, I shall give here another proof of it. M. de Saint Jean had caused fome potatoes to be planted in this island, in order to engage the neighbouring Negroes, who come hither very often, to continue and improve the culture of them, by which means they might fell them afterwards to the company. Accordingly they came a few days before us, and carried away all the potatoes, without minding to plant the off-fets again, which we found lying g prosecula very beauti intel aldes land

1749 upon the ground, dried up with the heat of the fun. भीता होता कार्या अल्ला कार्या वर्षा वर्षा वर्षा है।

Plants on The most remarkable plants on this this island, were the same as those which I had observed at Goree. Below I saw several new species of spermacoce and belianthemoides, which the French call salade de matelots, that is, sailor's sallet, because they eat the leaves of it like and add to t purslane, which it refembles in talte. Higher up, there were corchorus's, or Jew's mallows *, and a great deal of bindweed with cut leaves. The fummit of the mountain was covered with variety of thrubs, such as palma Christi's, tapia's +, and stinking cassis, among which there was great plenty of dracunculus 1, as also of ornithogalum with a part of the with

^{*} Corchorus five melochia. 7. B. 2. 982.

⁺ Tapia arborea triphylla. Plum, gen. pag. 22. In English, The garlic pear-tree.

Arum polyphyllum ceylanicum, caule scabro, viridi

with green leaves, and a very pretty r species of amaranthus . There were also some calabash trees from five to fix feet diameter: they had all of them European names, with the letters ent very deep into the back. We did not not chuse to deviate from the custom, therefore each man cut his name. For my part, I was fatisfied with repairing two of them, which were old enough to deserve the trouble: one was dated the fifteenth, and the other the fixteenth century. The letters were about fix inches long; but in breadth they occupied only a very finall part of the circumference of the trunk; from whence I concluded, they had

viridi diluto, maculie albicantibus notato. Comm Hort. Amft. vol. i. sab. 52.

[·] Amaranthus verticillatus minor, Bengalentis serpylli foliis incanis. Plut. phytog. tab. 10. fig. 3.

1749. not been cut when those trees were young. However, these inscriptions are Age of the fufficient, I think, to determine pretty nearly the age which these calabash trees may live to; for, if we suppose, that those in question were cut in their early years, and that they grew fix feet in the space of two centuries, one may reckon how many centuries are requisite, for their shooting up to five and twenty feet, which is the last term of their growth.

After spending three days agreeably in herborizing on the island of Magdalen, and in observing the beautiful shells which it produces, we returned to Goree, from whence I fet October 2. fail the 2d of October for the island from Go- of Senegal. Ten days was I deree for the tained at fea, by contrary winds at N. E. which would have made me extremely uneasy, had they not afforded me an opportunity of making a AT MANY

very

Departure ree for the Senegal.

TOSENEGAL, &c. very important observation. The 6th as of the fame month, at half an hour past fix in the evening, we were about fifty leagues from the coast, when four swallows came to take their Passage night's lodging in our veffel, and final pitched upon the shrouds. I catched them all four with great case, and found them to be European swallows. This lucky incident confirmed me in the suspicion I had formerly entertained, that those birds crossed the fea to get into the torrid zone, as foon as the winter approached: and indeed I have observed since, that they are never feen but at this time of the year at Senegal, along with quails, wagtails, kites, and fome other birds of paffage, which go thither every year, when the cold drives them away from the temperate countries of Europe. Another fact not less worthy of remark, is, that the fwallows do not build their

vehr

nefts

neits in Schegal as in Europe; they lie every night, two and two, or fingle, on the fea-shore, which they feem to like better than inland places. four visit was come to the state vines

Flying

had was likewife amufed in this long passage with looking at the sying sister. It was then their feafon, and the fea was, in fome measure, filled with them. In fize they are equal to a gudgeon they have two fins or a whiting: almost as long as their whole body, which serve them for wings to fly upon the water. The gold fife and bonitee are extremely greedy of the flying fifth, and at that time were in full purfait of them; to that every minute you might fee little clouds of the latter rifing above the water, and endeayouring to avoid their cruel enemies. As they balance themselves in the air, merely by the humidity of their wings, their

their flight was very fhort: a great 1749 many of those that had flown above the thip, fell down again; and we caught a confiderable number of them, without any further trouble. I cat some, which I found very tender and well caffed any winds a in come of the discounts

decrede beginging such world sported I arrived at Senegal the 12th of October, when the trees, the fields and the island the meadows, felt equally the effects of Senegal. of the freshness of the season, occasioned by the rain; and the eye was delighted with an agreeable verdure, which had succeeded a frightful drought. The rains were over: and as the bed of the Niger began to fall, the voyage to Podor feemed of course more practicable. I could not seize on a better opportunity for my researches on the banks of that river; and therefore I thought of taking a fecond trip to that place. I knew that as the winds are seldom favourable at this 340 feafon

voyage to

feafon of the year, our voyage went not be very expeditious Flattering myfelf therefore, with the hopes of great success in the observations I was about to make, I embarked the twenty-third of the fame month. It is common for the veffels that undertake this voyage, to provide themselves with wood overagainst the point of the ifle Bifeche, in a place that has fince retained the name of the Wood-island, within a fhort league of Senegal. Here we stopped at a very agreeable spot, where the vessel entered with all ease among the mangroves, and was shaded with their verdant foliage. While we were taking in our wood, I went ashore on the island, which by the inundation had been rendered one continued flough or morais. On each fide I finelt a delicious fragrancy, the cause of which I could not divine, till advancing into the wood, I arrived half-knee deep in mon water. water, at a fpot which I faw all covered with a kind of mushroom, different from the Ægyptian. It was then in bloffom, and diffused, as I observed before, a most pleasing odour. commence recommend of meaning for

From this place to the village of Difficulties Maka, both banks of the Niger are of afcending the so covered with mangroves, that it Niger. is impossible to walk on foot. As we had no wind, the laptots were obliged to hawl the veffel with a rope, up to their waift in water, and sometimes deeper. At first we advanced five or fix leagues a day, before we reached the Musketoe trading-place, because the river runs almost north and fouth, till it comes to that place, and the winds were not quite contrary: but from thence to Podor, it changes its direction from west to east, and with a good deal of difficulty could we proceed three leagues a day. One time we were retarded by a shoal; another time

time the trees along the banks him dered the hawling of the vollel, and good part of the day was spent in towing it *. As these obstructions afforded me time and opportunity to reconnoitre the country, I went on shore morning and evening, where I pierced my way through the woods, and traverled the moraffes and the fields, herborizing and courling all the way; fo that I never returned empty handed. In one place, a plant, or an infect, stopped me; in another, some extraordinary quadruped, or some bird decked with the most beautiful feathers; every object that of fered itself to my fight, was new to me detun florencementarinede sinsa

iouth, will it course to that plats and A little above the Musketoe trading crocodiles place, I began to fee crocodiles : when

breeks

To tow a vellel, is to draw it by a rope falsened to a tree, or to an anchor, which is let drop late the water.

Lifay I began to see them, I mean by hundreds; for there are some towards the island of Senegal. But this spot

feems to be their general rendezvous, even of the very largest: for I have beheld some that were from fifteen to

eighteen feet long; and I do not know that there are any above this fize.

There were upwards of two himdred, which appeared all at the fame

time above water. As the veffel parled that way, they were frightened, and immediately plunged their heads into

the river, but role again very foon to

more than a few minutes under was ter. When they fwim on the fur-

their head, and a finall part of the back; at which time they bear not the least resemblance to live creatures; but

one would take them for the trunks

749 of trees floating on the river. In this attitude, which leaves them the use of their eyes, they fee what paffes on both banks; and as foon as they perceive any animal coming to drink, they plunge under water, and fwim up to it with the greatest expedition; then feizing it by the leg, they drag it into the ftream, where it is foon drowned, and then they devour it.

We had not yet advanced five and twenty leagues the 30th of October. That morning I espied a very beautiful plain to the left of the river Niger, opposite the village of Gandor; pleased with the prospect, I went a-shore, but foon had reason to repent it. After having walked about an hour, I found the paffage stopped up by the marigot of Ouafoul, which was then very confiderable. The river makes an elbow

TOISENEGAL, Sc. a little above this foot. The ship's 1749 company finding the wind favourable, Office had gained above a league upon me, and had no thoughts of waiting not knowing the perplexity I was under And yet I was obliged to come up with them. I had taken with me only a Negroe of Banbara, who had offered his fervice on the occasion: for it is not to be imagined what difficulty I had to prevail on any of those, who had once made an excur-

fion with me, to attend me again: they were but too fensible of the risks

I ran; and they did not receive pleafure enough, to like a there of my

tolles soften voint for the television wallowellor

with did motorage to receiver, was i With my Banbara I advanced about half a league through a morais, formed by an inundation of the waters of the marigut on those low lands, from where I extricated myfelf with difficulty, wading up to my knees in wa-31603

DATY fise.

1749. ter, and meeting every minute with prodigious large ferpents, dipecially of Serpents of that species whose bedies are furprisingly thick in comparison to their tength. I avoided thole animals as foon as I espied them; but my Negroe heartened me, by affirming they were not noxious. I that one very near me, that was almolt a foot diameter, and bight and a half in length. The Negroe threw it over his shoulders, reckening to feast upon it with his comraded bedy short ion with one, one are the the again:

thor flopt by a marigot.

When I had advanced a few Geps towards the bed of the marigor, directtered, though I had any clothes on, into the water up to my waste talket I did not care to go further, as I might have met with fameri Mole, which would have rembended ime greatly. I therefore dont anyth Magrac for found the bottom; and tin wake mean while I got apon a treep indeder to avoid the forpents, and the water,

TOSENEGAL, &c. water, which began to fatigue me. After founding three different places, Offi he was of opinion, he could carry me over a particular spot, where the water came up only to his nottrils, when he flood on tip-toe. The fellow was fall, being fix feet forme inches. I mounted upon his shoulders, with my gun in my hand, a few birds, and a bundle of plants. The was foon in the water up to his He paffes neck; and I was not without fome overon the Negroe's apprehension, when I saw myself de-back, in danger of found gradually up to my waift: how- his life. ever, I refigned myself to his skilful guidance, or rather to my own good fortune, and I let him do as he pleafed. He waded through the middle of the marigat with amazing relolution, without being in the least danntod Thought the was obliged to find to low three large gulps of water, which for fome time took away his breath As foon as I escaped this danger, I K 2 espied

稿, 书艺作的, 图 mannin.

mary hans

He paffer

over on the Negroe's "

ni Alone

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LY K DOG

beigle

* 5 60

plant of very extraordinary espied a beauty, floating on the water: this was a cadelari *, with foft filver leaves. That moment I forgot every other object, and though my Banbara was still up to his chin in water, I ventured to pluck the charming plant Thus I escaped very luckily out of the marigot of Ouasoul, which at that time was very near a hundred and twenty fathoms broad, that is about twice the breadth of the Seine at Pont Royal; and I overtook the vessel be forend gradually up to my want of house he have

even, beretinned myrelf to his theller That very evening, doubting whether I should be able to find my way on the fide of the river, where I had run fuch risk in the morning. I landed on the opposite bank, but was not more

Forests of fortunate. Every now and then I met reeds iminv mines have delibered in which paffable.

* Cadelari. Hort, Mal. part. 10. page 155. tab. 78. Asorteen as a steament this danger,

TO SENEGAL, &c.
with forests of reeds from ten to a
twelve feet high, which tried my patience to the full, when I was obliged to go through them. There was
no sort of path; and in many places
the reeds stood so thick, as to deprive
me in a manner from seeing either sky
or land.

The following days I spent more agreeably: we arrived in those parts, where the hippoptami, or fea hor-Hippopta-fes, are very common. This is the horses. largest of all amphibious animals, and is to be found no where but in the African rivers, in fresh water : and . one thing worthy of oblervation is that it has been never feen any where elfe but in this part of the world, to which it feems particularly to belong. It is commonly drawn in the figure of an ox, which indeed is the animal it relembles most; but its legs are much thorter, " and its head is monitrous large. odT.

large. In regard to its fize, the feathorfe may take precedency after the elephant and the rhinoseros. Its jaws are armed with four large talks, wherewith it loofens the roots of trees, on which it feeds. It cannot abide long under water, for want of relpiration; which obliges it to carry its head now and then above the furface, in the fame manner as the crocodile. It neighs much in the fame manner as a horfe, but with fuch vehements, that it may be heard very diffinitly a

Second fpecies of crocodile.

In this very neighbourhood, befoles the sea horse, there is a second species of crocodile, not at all inserior to the other in dimensions. It is dissinguished by its colour, which is black; and by its jaws, which are a great deal longer than the others: It is also more carnivorous, and is even faid to be greedy after human sesh

quarter of a league off.

large

The

div oils of writes adverted akbumut 1749 The refiel firmetimes plied on one, and fametimes on the other bank of Beauty of the Niger. then lives which were all along bordered with thrube; commonly of willaws or falbans, govered with bindweeds, or dog's-bane, of feveral kinds, which after creeping round their branches, hing their forge, loaded with a mines flowers of various colours. At the foot of there hards waved the perficaria, afo in flower. Thus I failed along & charming meadow, on which were feeding a muleitude of graft hoppers, whole beautiful green, variegated with the Benefi red, had an admirable elfeet Further on, the palmettos reared their forty heads above the femiliers and meeta's, which overspread the reff of the ground. In thort, no thing could be more beautiful than the prospect, with which my eye was refreshed, the space of fifteen leagues and

A species of Januaria not described

YEST

upwards, from the defert to the village of Bokol. And indeed this would be the most agreeable river in the world, were it not for the continual apprehention from the crocodiles, and fometimes from the fee horses with which it abounds. The soon to separate

species of palm-tree.

which after creeping raun The abovementioned palmetto is what the Negroes call rom +, a name which the French have been pleased to change into that of rondier. Its trunk is very large and straight, like a column from fifty to fixty feet high, from the upper end whereof iffues forth a bundle of leaves, which, in turning off. form a round head: each leaf represents a fan of five or fix feet in expansion, supported by a tail of the same length. Of these trees some produce male flowers. which are barren: others, called female. are loaded with fruit, which succeed each other uninterruptedly, almost the whole

⁺ Carin-pana Hort. Malab, vol. i. p. er. tab. 9. vear

TO BENECAL Sc.

ar round on They brought me feveral of the bigues of an ordinary melon, but fomewhat rounder They were inver lopped in two fkins as tough as leather, and thick as strong parchment; within fide the fruit was yellowish, pourous and full of filaments; fastened to three large | kernels in the middle. The Negroes are very fond of this fruit in bootsmon when it is baked under the afhes, it taftes very much like a quince, it has pretty firing feent, but extremely them, doler simple, avo denguesplasorgs discovered five of those animals,

The Niger willow is different from willow. the European II has the trunk and the weakness of the olier; but its leaves are very short, and made round at the ends. The Negroes give it the name of kelele: of all the trees in the country, it is one of the most respected; its younger branches pass into the hands of ladies, who make pick-toothe for want of these, which leave a little who make pick-tooths of them. And

Though

of bitternesh in the moublitthey we the braiches of fome when fine feemed trees! Their different librts of pick-toods are called Skidgiton on this was fine Beggot their tood efficients throng purchinent;

5-Excursion in the neigh-

November distant every day to great a manbet of clephanes divatory the banks of other ivers that the aghe was no longer a forprize to of Daga- me. The fifth of November, as Lund walking in the woods over against the Mage of Dagana, I perceived a mumber of their footfeps very freshil I traced them close almost two leagues and as Elephants length I discovered five of those animals, of which were watering in their first like twine, and the fourth was faint ing up with its little one, eating the e of the branches of an acatte, which it had but just broke. By comparing the height of the tree against which this clephant flood, I juiged that it was at Part cleven or twelve feet, from the fole of its foot to the buttocks; its fulks projected the length of near three feet. Though armo

ough those animale did not appear to 172 feeled at feeing me, yet I thought it Nove dviseable to setire. Continuing my journey, I found very firong impressions of their footsteps, which I measured, and they were near a foot and a half diameten. Their dung was a good deal like that of a boxia, and formed halls feven or eight inches thick thrower platining a

they relembed the floring worn bit offer The next day I had an infinite pleafure in vifiting the beautiful fields on the side of Bokol. First of all I walked under trees full of green menkeys, whole Green gambole were very diverting. Next I came to a place abounding with game silver de back excellent sports Frenk thence I entered into a little thicke near a morale which drew whole facts of Guinea-hend, While I w wing in ambula is this fort, I con one of those enormous with bonn, po wild culiar to Africa, and of which I do not boars. comenaber that any natural historian h e mention He was coming hi

drive

deners

are assisted

of Blanca

1749! drive at me, and would have certainly overtaken me if I had not warned him. as it were, to direct his steps another way, by the notic I made in taking am at himem He was black like our European wild boars, but a valt deal largers Ho had four great tulks, the two uppermoft of which were bent into a femicircle towards the forehead, where they refembled the horns worn by other collections day I had an infinistration direction whiting the beautiful fields on the

Danger and fatigues in the voyage to Podor.

he The neater I drew to Podor, the more I was exposed to danger, because the banks of the Niger are more lenes forne, effecially that towards the north? Yet neither the dangers I was exposed to from wild beafts; nor the toil of couffing in woods, which hare rendered almost inacceffible by thoms one the fultry heats of the east wind, what nobliged him me every inflant to have recourse to the river waters, in order to quench my violent thirst i none of all these inconvetildness deterred me; nothing was capadrive

TO SENEGAL, &c. ole of cooling my courage. I had an mazing good flate of health; and this e me up in the midst of so many perils and toils, under which a great many He ment behelf a tiger at a little than blue

The feventh of November there hap bened to me an adventure, far more cri- adventure. ical and more terrifying than any I had itherto met with. I used alternately to walk on either bank of the river, but that day I happened to be on the north-I walked and coursed in a desert country, that had never been cultivated, over-run with wood, as ancient as country itself, and the thickness of which, independently of the wild beafts that lurk there, ought naturally to have filled me with horror. In fpite of the dangers and inconveniences inseparable from this kind of sport, my curiosity led me into the thickest parts of the wood invited by the animals, plants, and birds, of which there was prodigious plenty. The negroe, whom I had taken

AVOYAGEST

ken with me as a companion, followed me at a great dillance. It was now noon-day, and I had fearer loaded a piece, after killing two four ans, He meets beheld a tiger at a little distance. He

a tiger.

had not as yet espied me, for there was a tree between us; but he walked with a very flow pace, his head inclining towards the ground. Instantly I clapped a ball into my piece, in order to take aim of him behind the tree, and in my left hand I held a hanger. Hearing these motions, the tiger turned quickly towards where I was, and darted his angry eyes at me. Though I was not twelve feet diftant from him, still I thought it imprudent to fire, because I was alone, and should have run a very great risk, if I did not la him dead upon the spot. I there fore took the resolution, which seemed

> to me the most prudent on the like occalion: this was full to keep full aim at him, with one knee bent for greater fecurity, and to bear the ground with

TOTSENEGAL, Sc.

the other foot without appearing difmayed, in order to determine him to purfue his way. This he did in an infrant; and taking fuch a leap, as I never beheld in my life, he freed me from the uncafines, into which his disagreeable be made a wooden unt and guruhed

shor dines

10004

-him out ni That very instant I quitted the wood, to draw near the river-fide, where my negroe did not come to me till an hour after. We waited a long time for the veffel without hearing any tidings of it: we likewife went on a title further; but all to no purpole. We had left it above two leagues behind us, and there was no probability of its arrival before fun-let. It was four o'clock in the afternoon; and from fix in the morning that I had been toiling, I had tafted nothing but water, of which I had drank a great quantity, to temper the heats, I felt from the loorching rays of the fun. Being now opprefied with hunger, as well as my negroe, I determined

mined to dine after the favage fashion All the requifites were at hand. I had killed in my walks more game than four hungry men could devour at one meal. My negroe was not embarrafied to roaft it: he rubbed two flicks together, which took fire in an instant; then he made a wooden spit, and garnished in the mid- it with a toucan, two partridges, and two Guinea-hens. As foon as I had

The author dine dle of a wood.

dined, which I may be faid to have done with more frugality and less ceremony than the negroes themselves: I thought I could do no greater service to myself, and to every Frenchman that should happen hereafter to walk in this dangerous neighbourhood, than to let fire to the wood, in the manner practifed by the negroes. During the space of two hours that I staid there. I threw in fuel sufficient to spread the conflagration, for feveral leagues through this vast defert, which extends from the village called Ndounnmangas as far as Podor, for a space of above twenty

leagues:

He fets fire to it. as he reires.

mined

leagues; it is frequented but very rarely by the Moors, who encamp in some places, which they previously set on fire. At feven in the evening, the long wiffied for vellel arrived; when I went on board with great fatisfaction, by the blaze of the bonfire: eight days afterwards I heard, that it was still burning, and had laid the country open for feveral leagues, shool and sandrag

The eighth we arrived at Lamnai, a Prodigious imali illand, which very justy might be birds on called the illand of birds : it lies very of I not two hundred fathoms th. The trees were covered with fuch a prodigious number of cormorants mone of every kind, that the laptors, an going up a rivalet, filled a boot, in less than half an hour, as well with the young ones, which they took either with their hands or knocked down with flicks; as with the old ones, of which ailte and the every

· Paralel

9. every thor brought down leveral sici the Mooist who car amp in these please

Stratiote, the Nile.

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do isea but kubbil

which they mayigulfy for an irreachAt In this ifland I found a plant, which I had not yet seen; it is well known by the name of the stratiote of Egypt, that furprizing plant, which is faid to move on the waters of the Nile, leeking for nutrition in the fame manner as animals. Surely this is a made flory, or perhaps the loofe descript tions which travellers have given of h. have been interpreted in a wrong The fratien dride Night illand berelli adı demand to like as that of the Wiley of which the Have a figure in Profes Alpindin, and in the garden of Malabad + : I and ins tooks are to deeply fixed in the earth, M. F. M. E. that we is with difficulty they can be plucked up i What has given and to

Hay alem el maovi, id est, stratiotes. Profi.

CARGOS :

⁺ Kalde phil. Hert. Make sel. 1130 an ge. 20.63 dicks; as with the old ones. CHELL

this error is, that the abovementioned plant produces small tufts of leaves, at a very great distance from each other, and supported by a stem, which, after floating on the water, loses itself infensibly in the earth; much in the same manner as the posamogetons, the number phoides and even the leaves of the new mission or water lilly.

deferred from afar, over the low lands. I begun the more ardently to with for the happy hour of landing, as the veilel hardly advanced above three or four leagues a day. At length this He arrived hour came the tenth of Movember; at Poder. and the nineteenth day put a period to this tedious and laborious voyage; which I had performed in the hottest month of the year. The thermometer excessive hear on could not be exposed with any fasety, board the tenth of the year, where it marked

enough

740 marked by twelve at noon from 40 to 45 degrees. This cabbin was so great-ly warmed by the sun, that even in the night-time it still preserved from 30 to 32 degrees of heat: it was like a stove, or rather a fiery furnace: the pitch and tar were melted to fuch a degree, as to pass through all the joints of the veffel. In short, the hear I endured in this voyage, was fuch, that I do not think it can possibly be, more violent in any other part of the world : hence I am not at all furprized, that most of the French, who are near two months in performing the voyage of Galam * in July and August, should seldom get there without being feized with burning fevers. And therefore it is that those, whom experience or a thorough knowledge of the country has rendered more prudent, do not fail to embark in the month of June, as foon as the waters are high board the

enough

^{*} Galem is upwards of 700 miles above the mouth of the River, and the principal place of trade for gold, flaves, &c.

TO SENEGAL, &c.

enough. Then they have a great deal 1740 less to suffer from the intemperateness. of the rainy season, and of the heats, which increase daily from the month of June to November; fo that they would never be able to bear them, were they to let out in September or October.

Another inconveniency of the voyage Bees very to Podor or Galam, in the month of Oc- troubletober, is owing to the musketoes and bees. I have elsewhere mentioned how troublesome the former are: but the latter are still more so. Every day towards twelve o'clock, I was fure of being visited by one, two, and sometimes more fwarms, which made their entrance into the cabbin, attracted, in all probability, by the penetrating and refinous fmell of the pitch and tar. Such tormenting vifitors obliged me to quit the veffel, and to feek for peace on thore. difficulty could we drave away that's

The same thing happened to me at Podor in November and December. It

L 3

A VOYAGE

is very likely, that during those three months the (warms quit their old hives to build new ones; for, at that time, you frequently meet with very considerable heaps of them. One day I faw the roof of a house, the surface of which was fixteen square feet, covered with a lay or bed, four fingers thick of bees, heaped up in this manner. This is an evident proof of the prodigious number of those infects. They lodge every where, but more particularly in the trunks of trees made hollow by time. This year they had three hives at our fettlement of Podor: one between the shutters and the window of the room on the first floor: the other on the ground floor, in a small press full of old iron, a leaf of which was opened every day; and it food at the bottom of a very dark warehouse: the third was in the ceiling of another warehouse, just behind the door. With difficulty could we drive away those infects, even in the night, and with the help of fire: they know how to di-

TOSENEGAL, &c.

distinguish in the dark, those who mo- 17 left them, and they thew their revence by most pungent frings. The ware sind and

These bees differ from those of Europe Quality only in fize. There is this fingularity in ney. their honey, that it never acquires a confiftency like ours; but is always liquid and like a brown fyrup. We may affirm, it is infinitely superior, both in delicacy and tafte, to the bott honey collected in the fouthern parts of France, and

The country about Podor had pow avery Plants of different face from what it wore at the time of my first voyage. Instead of a day barren plain, d beheld an agrocable ch paigny interfected with moraffes where rice grew naturally without being fown. The higher grounds were covered with millet: and there also the indigo and cotton plants displayed a most lovely verdure. most all the aquatic plants of warm dimates, paffed in review before me: I ob-41 ferved L 4

and the pongati ||, of the garden of Malabar. I likewise met with several species of alisma, bindweed, nenupbar, utriculaire, bottonia ||, adbatoda, besides a great multitude of cyperuses, or galingales, and other, mostly unknown, plants.

My curiofity was not confined to the adjacent fields; it extended also to the woods and marigot; two leagues all round. There I found many new species of trees and birds of exquisite beauty. But of all the extraordinary things I observed, nothing struck me more than certain eminencies, which, by their height and regularity, made me take them

ferred

^{*} Nymphæa Indica minor lævis. Rumph. Herb. Amb. v. 6. p. 167. tab. 72. fig 3.

⁺ Pontederia floribus umbellatis. Lin. fl. Zeyl. 129,

¹ New species.

[|] Pongati. Hort. Maleb. v. 11. p. 47. tab. 24.

M Hottonia flore folitatio, ex foliorum alis provepiente. Burm. Th. Zeyl. pag. 121. tab. 55. fig. 1.

TO SENEGAD, Sc.

at a diffance, for an affemblage of Negroes buts, or a confiderable village: and yet they were only the nefts of certain infects, They are round pyramids, from eight to ten feet high, upon nearly the same base, with a smooth surface, of rich clay, excessively hard and well built. The infide is a labyrinth of little galleries, interwoven one with the other, and answering to a small opening, which gives ingress and regress to the infects that inhabit it. They are called vag-vagues: and perhaps are the same as those which go by the name of wood-lice and white ants in America and the East-Indies. They are shaped like the common ants; but their members are not fo die flinct. Their body, besides being of a direct white, is also much softer, fuller, and as it were, of an uncluous nature. These creatures multiply prodigiously; and when they want to make a lodgment, they attack some dead trunk of a tree, into which they quickly eat their way.

are a difference in for an affembling of the

740

Observation on the latitude of Podor.

in Interny states browages Inhad carefully drawn a plan of the river Niger, from its mouth to Poder: to that there remained only for me, to know the latitude of this place. The difference I found between my plan, and that of the ancient and modern charts, made me suspect that the latitude had not been rightly determined; if it be true that they worked upon it at all. In order to be certain, I fixed. with the requisite precautions, a gnomon eight feet one inch and a line in height. upon a platform, reduced to a very exact level. During the month of November and part of December, I ablered thereandifferent points of the fun's thadow, schiels by calculation gave me its height Thence I concluded Podon to be 16 degrees 44 minutes north lacitude laco cording to the account I transmitted at that time to M. Le Monnier who was pleased to communicate it to mi. the

TO BEEN EGIA L. Sc. be academy of sciences " . This obse vation is of fome importance, fince corrects an error of above as minutes by which all other mans place Rodor too far north and it greatly diminishes the ength of this giver, whose direction he been also wrong laid down by most go graphers. Thus, befides the advant I reaped from my second voyage to Podot, it informing myfelf of the natural history of the country; it tikewife ensbled be so verify and correct an effectial point of geography, with regard to the course of the Niger, of which we know but a very finall part on year service and

Brue and de Saint Jean; one the differen to In failing down this triver, the winds evers as feveurable to us asother had be adverte in afcending in de left's Podon the dor to anyth of December, and larnived the are se at the island of Senegal show that I was

TRUCKS CA

This observation was printed in the second volume of the memoirs presented to the academy by brushy, and entered gen ensubenced travil the 20th. Its mouth does not begin,

Cambia. to dive February.

-610

1749, only five days in my return, whereas I had been nineteen in going to Podor. As the waters decreased, they left on the banks of the river a slime, which the Negroes know how to make the most of; for they had fown every part of it with large millet, tobacco and feveral forts of French beans, abblied and I sendosing

I reaped from my fecond votage to Po-

OF

He remina from Po-

I did not flay long upon the island of safanuary Senegal; for I left it the rath of January gover. the enfuing year, to return a fecond time to the island of Gorce, where I arrived the 15th. From thence I was to make the voyage of Gambia, with Meff. de la Brue and de Saint Jean; one the director of the fettlement of Senegal, the other of the ifle of Gorce. They were going to restore the French factory of Albreda, fituate upon this river, within fix or feven leagues of its mouth, and about fifty from the ifle of Goree. Three Voyage to Vessels set sail together the 10th of February, and entered the river Gambia

zoth of February. the 20th. Its mouth does not begin,

pro-

properly speaking, till your are late the 1750. point of the bar; though its bed ad Reliner varices a good way into the fea, by means of the fand banks or flats betwint the island of birds and cape St. Mary. The cape is a high land, which you leave upon your right. From the point of the bar to the factory of Albreda, the river has a very unequal breadth; in some places it is a league over, and a little more in others. Its banks are very high, and bordered on both fides with tall trees, which plainly flew the goodness of the formely difficulty as one would the died

We cast anchor over against the factory, They an and staid a few days in the road, without chored over a going athore. There we lived very well: gainst the the negroes brought us plenty of excellent Albreda. fish, as thornbacks, foles, monstrous Fish of the large rock fish and a great many tree- river Gamoyfers *, which abound in that river.

hering them, "they need tonly to

See the natural hiftory of bivalvous thells. Species 1. oysters, plate 14. fig. 1. hollob offi dies self iffents know no difference.

19, only five days in my return, whereas I had been nineteen in going to Podor. As the waters decreased, they left on the banks of the river a flime, which the Negroes know how to make the most of; for they had fown every part of it with large millet, tobacco and feveral forts of French beans: applied sand I ampliquing

Second Goree.

He returns

I reaped from my floond voyage to Po-I did not flay long upon the island of safanuary Senegal; for I left it the rath of January woyage to the enfuing year, to return a fecond time to the island of Gorce, where I arrived the 15th. From thence I was to make the voyage of Gambia, with Meff. de la Brue and de Saint Jean; one the director of the fettlement of Senegal, the other of the ifle of Gorce. They were going to from Porestore the French factory of Albreda, fituate upon this river, within fix or feven leagues of its mouth, and about fifty from the ifle of Goree. Three Voyage to Veffels fet fail together the 10th of February, and entered the river Gambia

zoth of February. the 20th. Its mouth does not begin,

pro-

TO SENEGAL, Sc.

properly speaking, till you are at the 1750. point of the bar; though its bed ad- Pelm varices a good way withouther fee, by means of the fand banks or flats betwint the island of birds and cape St. Mary. The cape is a high land, which you leave upon your right. From the point of the bar to the factory of Albreda, the river has a very unequal breadth; in some places it is a league over, and a little more in others. Its banks are very high, and bordered on both fides with tall trees, which plainly flew the goodness of the follow the difficulty is one would be wish

We cast anchor over against the factory, They an and staid a few days in the road, without chored going afhore. There we lived very well: gainft the the negroes brought us plenty of excellent Albreda. fift, as thornbacks, foles, monftrous Fift of the large rock fish and a great many tree- riverGamoysters *, which abound in that river.

of Wind Book Voter Model ashall

See the natural history of bivalvous shells.

Species 1. oysters, plate 14. fig. 1. sight affeurs know no difference.

-646

Hero they have overy using sequine to niver being limbs with along over they Antene two theo event thereof : and the the Water nover locale his Calenda in this Apre. What be very midratordinance every whose elle, systems are booking from rocker, here they like gathered upon trees the An Now water, based been ter bare, and feel hanging at their rooms This is when made fine voyagers, who had feel the like in America, arthur, that they peld ched apon thees of he wegles have her so much difficulty as one would imagine, in gathering them; they need only to out cur off the brunch, no which the oyllers are fallened of A fingle root bears formes nimes upwards of two hundred; and if it has leveral branches, it forms a Chiffer which one man would find difficult to earry. The fields of their cyflers differ from thefe of Europe, bes ing longer, narrower and thinner; but, as to the delicacy and relish of the meat, consoifieurs know no difference.

TO EE A E GA L, &c.

In this voyage I was witness myfelf for the first time, to the mischief done Cloud by locusts, that scourge, so dreadful to het climates. The third day after our arrival we were still in the road; when there funderly profe over our heads, towards eight o'clock in the morning, va thick cloud, which darkened the his and deprived us of the rays of the fun. Every body was furprized at fo fudden a change in the fky, which is feldom overcall in this feafon: but we foon found that it was diving to a cloud of locusts, railed about twenty or thirty fathoms from the ground, and covering an extent of feveral Jeagues, upon which it pour red a shower of those insects, which fell to devouring while they rested themfelves, and then refumed their flight. This cloud was Brought by a very Ariong and rivind , de was call the mons ing in passing over the adjacent doun-

try; and we imagined that the fame

baiw mours know no difference

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wind drove the locusts into the sea. They foread delolation wherever they came : duron after devouring the herbage, with the fruits and leaves of trees, they attacked even the buds and the very bark: they did not so much as spare the reeds. with which the hots were thatched, notwithstanding that ithese were is dry: in thort, they did all the mile chief that can be dreaded from to voracious an infect. I took a great number of them, which are still to be feen in my cabinet they were intirely brown, of mthembreadth and length of one's finger, and armed with two strong jaw bones, dented like a Their wings were much longer than those of any locusts I had ever seen before : and no doubt, but it was owing to the largeness of those wings, that we imagined that the lame

briw to a linew to playence

TO SENEGAL, &c. 161 they could fly with fuch ease, and poise 1750. themselves in the air.

and the property than their works were

One would not imagine that so shock- People ing an insect, as the locust, should locusts, ever be food for man. And yet it is an undoubted fact, that in several parts this country, the people eat of it: nay they have different ways of dressing this extraordinary dish. Some pound them, and boil them with milk; others only broil them on the coals, and think them excellent food. There is no disputing of tastes: for my part I should willingly resign whole clouds of locusts to the Negroes of Gambia, for the meanest of their sishes.

One thing which always surprized me, Activity of the sap in is the prodigious rapidity, with which the plants. sap of trees repairs any loss they may happen to sustain in that country: and I was never more astonished, than when, upon landing four days after that terrible invasion of

wind the wife of the west of the

1750, of locusts, I saw the trees covered with reb. new leaves; and they did not feem to me to have fuffered much. The herbs bore marks of the devastation fomewhat longer; but a few days were sufficient to repair all the mifchief

Nation of Mandingoes.

The people inhabiting the country along the Gambia, are Mandingoes or Sofes, to express myself in their way. Their manner of life, and drofs, is not preferable to that of the other Theirhuts. blacks; but their lauts are better built : and perhaps they are are obliged for their take of architecture to the Portuguese, who were formerly settled in those parts. The walls are made of a fat binding clay, which foon hardens. They are all thatched with straw, which hangs down to another little wall breafthigh; and this makes a fmall gallery round the hut, where they are theltered from the rays of the fun. The village

willage having taken fire a little after my 1750.

arrival, the walls of those huts that withstood it, were partly of a beautiful red,
and partly vitrified by the violence of the
fire 1 at a distance they seemed to be
done over with a very bright enamel,

The hut where I lodged was large and commodious, but as dark as a subterraneous cavern, even at noon-day, because Europe swalls it had no other opening but a door pierced at each end. Here I must observe; lest I should forget it, that a great number of our European swallows resorted hither every evening, and passed the night upon the rasters; for, as I have elsewhere mentioned; they do not build nests in this country, but only come to spend the winter.

As my view in going up the Gambiz was to make experiments in natural history. I wanted a lightforme place to perform my operations: and the hute M 2 which

1750, throughout the village were all too dark: I contrived therefore to make use of a thmarind-tree in the middle of the garden. which belonged to my hut, and was planted with fine orange, citron, papaws, and other fruit-trees, I made an inclos fure of straw under its verdant foliage, which, befides affording me a cool retreat, invited the feathered chorifters to warble Cabinet of out their notes. In thore, it was a real Observaticabinet of natural philosophy, and I quest tion whether to rural a one was ever feen before, For my part, the memory thereof is still dear to me, because of the knowledge I thereby acquired of an in-

the country.

Africa.

Fertility of The foil is rich and deep, and anazingly fertile: it produces from ancounty and almost without cultivation, all the necessaries of life, as grain, fruits, legumes, and rects. Zoldw On

finite multitude of new and outloos plants, the growth of this county, which is doubtiefs one of the firett foots of all

to SENEGALASC.

065

On the high and somewhat drier grounds 1750. you see guavas, acajous, two sorts of papaws, with orange and citron trees of exquisite beauty: I measured some myself that were above five and twenty feet high, and a foot and a half the diameter of the trunk. The roots of manioc, igname, and battice multiply greatly in open places. The black and moist clays are taken up with forests of banana's, at the feet of which both pepper and ginger grow. Every thing matures to perfection, and is excellent in its kind. They likewise make a great deal of date wine, which is very delicious.

The pepper of this place is not the Pepper.

fame as that of India. It is a round berry about the bigness of hemp-seed, which ripens to a red colour, and has a sweetish taste. It contains a seed of the shape and bigness of a grain of cabbage, but very hard, and in taste like aromatic pepper, which has an agreeable poignancy. This fruit grows in small bunches on a shrub

1750. three or four feet high, whose thin supple branches are furnished with oval leaves, pointed at the ends, very greafy, and pretty much like those of the privet or prime print.

Culture of Rice is almost the only grain fown at Gambia in the lands overflown by the rains of the high feason. The negroes cut all these lands with small causeys, which with-hold the waters in fuch a manner, that their rice is always moistened. They had got in their crop long before my arrival; fo that the rice fields in the month of February were a fort of drained moraffes, on which grew a few wild herbs. Every night we saw shining slies, which flew on all fides; and, wherever they paffed, they diffused a light similar to that of twinkling ftars. I walked there feveral times at night fall, and perceived that they came out of crevices or gaps formed in that marshy soil when dried by the fun, and in which they had made their nests,

Shining

nests. I observed also, that those which 1750. had wings, emitted light as well as those which had none; contrary to what we fee in France, where the former have not this advantage. In thort, they flew about only for three or four hours at the most, after which they returned to their holes. I gathered a great number of them, which I kept for some days in finall phials, where they gave a light fo long as they lived; but it grew dim in proportion as the infect drew towards its end. This little creature is improperly called a glow worm or fire-fly; fince it is neither a worm nor fly; but a finall beetle, of a brown colour, and its body flat and fealy, like that of other beetles. Its wings are covered with two cases, also lealy, the very fost. The light with which it is furnished, is lodged only in the three last rings of its body; and some motion must be impressed on them, for the light to shew itself outwardly.

M 4

the sed in sylven they had meraphical Leaving 1750.

Wood of Gambia.

Leaving the river, we found a rich foil, of red fand, extremely fine, and unconceivably fruitful: this appears by the trees with which it is covered. Here you fee thickets impenetrable, not because of the thorns, for there are very few; but by reason the trees stand so close: among the rest I met with some wild vines, not unlike the European. There you behold a forest of lofty trees, bending under the weight of the ciffus's (1), which would be called ivy in America, from the manner in which they fasten themselves, ascending and defcending, intertwined with each other, and feeming to bend downwards and to fubmit their branches, just like the tackling of a ship in regard to its yards and masts. It was in these fine fields I beheld those trees of such prodigious di-

eniver l

⁽¹⁾ Cereo affinis scandens planta aphylla; caule rotundo, articulato, glabro, succulento, saturate viridi. Sloan, Jam. Vol. ii. tab. 224. fig. 3 & 4. mensi-

mensions, viz. father Plumier's ceyba's 1550. (2), which, as I have elsewhere obferved, the negroes of Senegal call benten.

fome from forty to thirt feet Assessmit

The benten surpasses all the trees of Benien a Senegal in height, as the calabash-tree prodigious furpasses them in thickness. There are height. fome a hundred and ten, and even a hundred and twenty feet high, the trunk of which is from eight to ten feet at the most in diameter, and extremely erect; between the root and branches, it is fifty or fixty feet, and oftentimes more, in length. The chamferings or kind of finall wings, which fometimes grow the whole length of the trunk, do not in the least diminish the beauty of its white bark, nor the boldness with which it carries its round spreading top. It is of this tree the Pirogues negroes make their pirogues, by hollowing its trunk; the wood being very foft,

dense,

⁽²⁾ Ceyba viticis folio caudice glabro. Plum. Gen. pag. 42.

dense, and extremely light, Those who inhabit the banks of the Gambia being possessed of the largest bentens, make likewise the largest pirogues: they have some from forty to fifty feet long, and from four to five feet in breadth, and fomewhat less in depth.

Farobier.

difference pictal as broken by Window are The farobier is another large tree also as common as the benten, but of quite a different use, because of the hardness and weight of the wood. The negroes are very fond of its fruit, which is a kind of cod or husk like that of a French bean, but above a foot in length, containing a black flat feed, like large lentils, enveloped in a yellow farinaceous fubstance. This fruit frequently serves them instead of every other sustenance, especially when they travel: it is extremely good, and nourishing , and tastes much like the best ginger-bread cake. Secretary a sur similar od 2 privos vicela folio cendus grabas

750.

At the east end of the village of Albreda, I faw a wild fig-tree of an ex-Extraorditraordinary shape and fize. It was not tree, very high ; but its trank was about ten feet diameter, and cut with fo many chamferings, that it feemed to be composed of several trees, whose trunks joined to each other, most of them foreading chiefly more towards the roots, where they formed a kind of buttress. This trunk was not above fifteen feet high, but it was divided into feveral large branches, well covered with leaves. which made it very agreeable, as it afforded a most refreshing shade. The what a inhabitants had pitched upon this fpot caldi is. to build a calde, that is, a public hall. This confifted of a floor raised two or three feet above the earth, and composed of several forked shoots planted near to one another, over which cross shoots were laid. The whole was covered with hur-

dies put close together, and some mats

1759, over them. This was the place where their affemblies were held: here the lazy and the indolent met to Imoke and converse; here the news-mongers fat loitering, in a word, here they transacted all the affairs and concerns of the ny chamterings, chat is heaned spalling

composed of several sever, whose trunks It is not at all furprizing that in a moift country there should be plenty of frogs : but furely I had great reason to be furprifed, not having met as yet with any in all my excursions. i From, Podor to Garnbia, which, including the isle of Senegal, and that of Goree, with Portudal and several other places where I had been, contains a space of la hundred and fifty leagues, and a country that I was well acquainted with, I had as yet feen none but toads ift was in a well, which had been dug at the west end of the village of Albreda, that I discovered the first frogs : and these could not get away from thence, the borders 20070

TO SENEGALASC.

borders being raised fix feet, and cur 1750. vertically. I Tufaw none except in this well, which contained fuch a prodigious multirude of them, that, when they rose above the water, they absolutely hid the whole farface of ity covering one another over again, nearly in the fame manner as tiles are laid on the tops of houses. Their boil ies were finaller, but more compact than those of our European frogs; their colour was r green, agreeably variegal ted with black spots of that I look ed upon theme as a very particular freciesta foluma foldw delemina cuorft their company, only when they did not

Botany, and every other branch of natural history, had greatly improved under my care in this fruitful country, and I should have considerably added to my store of observations, if I had been permitted to continue there for any time; but the circumstances, and difficulties attending a new settlement, prevented my tarking

March on the 12th of March upon my return ath of to Goree, along with the directors of that He returns island, and of Senegal, who had taken biz to the care that I should want for nothing ree. while I was at Gambia.

aned wide when ableens

Prodigious whales.

Our passage was tedious; so that we had full leifure to take a very near view of two whales, which we had feen already in our first voyage. They fullowed us a great deal longer in this, and we had the pleasure of seeing the sports and majestic movements of those monstrous animals, which amused us with their company, only when they did not come too near our vessel. I reckoned their length to have been about a hundred and fifty-five or fixty feet: the part of their back which they held always abaye water, was twelve feet long, and from four to five broad, without reckoning the head, which it mifed fometimes for respiration, but made no more noise SE TO

to English

noise than a horse, that puffs and blows 1750. when he is drinking. They did not Mi throw water out of their nostrile, after the manner of all blowing whales, which are also very common in the tropic feas: in short, I faw no appearance of fine on their back. No doubt but a vertebre of fourteen inches diameter and eight high, which I had occafion to fee afterwards on the fea shore, with some ribs upwards of ten feet in length, must have formerly belonged to this species of whale. Some perhaps will be surprized that I should take notice of these animals, when I have nothing more particular to fay about them: yet as they are to be found in latitudes where the negroes are neither defirous nor accustomed to fish for them; and as there is no probability that there ever will be any feen nearer, or more conveniently than these were beheld by me; I thought it my duty to communi? gate the prefent remarks, in order to fliew 17. 14 how

AIVOYAGE

March. are, supposing them to be a distinct fort

Sea extremely luminous.

By day we were diverted with the whales, and by night with the lustre of the sea. As soon as the sun dipped beneath the horizon, and night overspread the earth with darkness, the sea lent us its friendly light. While the prow of our vessel ploughed the soaming surges, it seemed to set them all on fire: thus we sailed in a luminous inclosure, which surrounded us like a large circle of rays, from whence darted in the wake of the ship a long stream of light, which sollowed us to the isle of Goree, where we landed the twenty-third of the same month.

The 23d he arrives at the ifland of Goree.

Instead of returning directly to the island of Senegal, I resolved to stay at Goree, in order to complete the observations on plants, and particularly on shells

shells and other sea bodies, which had 1750. escaped me in my two former voyages. Marchi It was then the fish season, at least, for fish of a moderate fize: The sea seemed to be full of the latter: when they happened to be purfued by the large ones, you might fee them in sholes approaching towards land; and oftentimes they ran ashore. Some of those sholes of were fifty fathoms square, and the fishes crowded together in such a manner, as to roll upon one another, without being able to fwim. As foon as the negroes perceive them coming towards land, they jump into the water, with a basket in one hand to catch the fish and swim with the other. It is curious to behold them in this uneafy attitude, penetrating through the finny fwarm; they need only to plunge and to lift up their baskets, and they are fure to return loaded with fish.

1750.

nary fifting.

I was present at a very extraordinary Extraordi-capture of fish made the same month, on the coast of Ben, within a league of the island of Goree, by the company belonging to one of the French East-India ships, which had anchored in the road, They had only a net of about fixty fathoms, which they threw at a venture into the fea; for they were not fo lucky as to espy any of those sholes of fishes: yet they had fuch furprising fuccefs, that the shore was covered, the whole length of the net, with the fifth they caught, though the net was in a bad condition. I reckoned part of them, and judged, that they might in all be upwards of fix thousand, the least of them as large as a fine carp. There you might fee pilchards, rock-fift, mullets or gull-fish of different forts; molebats, with other fishes very little known. The negroes of the neighbouring village took each their load, and the ship's crew filled their boat till it was rea-

dy to fink, leaving the rest on the seain any other country, such a march capture of fish would, without all doubt, bass for a miracle.

and embaracinal but it to be determined and I have already observed that, in the A very island of Goree, there is a low land from incalled Savana. There I lodged in a feet, called but of straw, built in the negroe manner; it was new when I went into it: but in less than a month you might fee through it. I inquired into the cause of this, which I found to be as follows. The earth hereabouts was all filled with a species of white ant, called vag-vague, different from that which I have elsewhere described. This, here, instead of raising pyramids, continues buried under ground, and never makes itself: known but by small cylindrical galleries, of the thickness of a goose quill, which it erects against the several bodies it defigns to attack. These galler ties are formed of earth with infinite delicacy of workmanship. The vag-N 2 vagues

1750. vagues make use of them, as of covert-ways, to work without being feen: and whatever they fasten themselves to, whether it be leather, cloth, linnen, books or wood, it is furely gnawed and confumed. I should have thought myself pretty well off, had they only attacked the reeds of my hut; but they pierced through a trunk which stood on trestles a foot above the ground, and gnawed most of my books. Even my bed was not spared, and tho' I took care every evening to beat down the galleries, yet they were frequently erected again, in the middle of the night, up to my bolster; and the vag-vagues got into the bed, where, after cutting the linnen and mattress, they came to my flesh and bit me most cruelly. I shall be excused from mentioning the swellings and acute pains which followed. Their fize is hardly bigger than that of our large European ants; yet they

are of fuch a constitution, that neither 1750. foft nor falt water, nor vinegar, nor any other strong liquors, with which I often covered the floor of my chamber, were able to destroy them; so that every method I took to extirpate the breed proved ineffectual. The infinite havock which these insects make, has set people upon thinking of different contrivances to exterminate them. Among others, arsenic has been proposed as an infallible remedy; but it would not be prudent to advise and much less to practife it. If fire was not apt to cause greater mischief than that arifing from the vag-vagues, it would be a cheaper and more effectual remedy; for we feldom fee those infects, in places that have undergone this operation. in when the law.

Tho' I fuffered greatly from the Observatihostilities of the vag-vagues, yet I light of the must confess, they contributed to a con-

N 3

fiderable

1750. March. fiderable number of observations; and were the cause of a frequent repetition of experiments, which perhaps I should otherwise have performed but very feldom. My room was full of pails of fea water, where I constantly kept live fish, which in the night time emitted a light, not unlike that of phosphorus. The mugs full of shells, and even the fish that lay dead on the table, gave the fame light. All these illuminations put together, and reflected upon different parts of the room, made it appear as if it was on fire; and I must own, that I was of that opinion the first time I saw this strange phænomenon: for it made the impression on me, which it is natural for every man to feel in the like case. The wag-wagues, by awaking me fuddenly out of my fleep, renewed my fright, much oftener than I could have wished in the beginning: but my apprehension gradually ceased, by seeing the thing often repeated; till I at length received a pleafure fure from this extraordinary fight. What 1750. was most engaging, each fish shewed itself plainly to the eye, by the light Luminous emitted from its body; and the fame effect was produced by the shells and other sea bodies which I had with me; even the pails themselves looked like a burning surface. This was not all; every day the fight was new, because I had new fishes and new shells to observe: now it was a pilchard, now a molebat: one time a purple fish, another time a periwinkle: one time a polypus, a crab, or a star-fish, that shew_ ed its luminous rays in the dark: in short, I perfectly distinguished the shape of all those different fishes, by rays of light, which darted from every part of their bodies; and, as I could place them in a thousand different pofitions, I had it in my power, to give an infinite variety to this beautiful illumination.

When

大大地

1750. March.

When the vag-vagues obliged me to quit this glittering mansion, and to look for relief abroad, the angry ocean prefented me with the same phænomenon in great. The foaming billows seemed to metamorphose themselves into mountains of fire, and exhibited to my view a most amazing spectacle, more capable of exciting admiration than fear, even in the minds of persons exposed to their fury.

Extraordinary accident.

Notwithstanding the sea about the island of Goree was most violently agitated at this time, in consequence of the vernal equinox, yet I crossed it very often in a small boat, in going over to the continent. One day I was bound for Cape Bernard, I had like to have lost my life. This cape is not above the third part of a league from Goree; and this was the first time I thought of landing there. At a distance

tance it feemed to me, as if it form- 1750. ed a creek, fomewhat like a fmall M hayen; and I made no doubt, but I should be able to get on shore with all ease: but the nearer I drew, the more difficult I found it; for the furf ran so high, that I could see no fafe place to land. During this uncertainty, the waves were driving us towards there; when all of a fudden I faw myself invironed by a huge furge, which threw the boat upon a rock where it overset! Luckily I did not lose my presence of mind, notwithstanding this disaster; and, as the boat overset, it stuck to the rock, where it was supported like an arch, under which my two negroes made their efcape. I did not wait for another wave to come and fet it right again, and perhaps to overwhelm me, which would have inevitably happened: but I made use of my legs, to get to the further end of the beach, where I walked

March. all the harm I suffered.

Hitherto no difficulty had been able to stop me in my carrier; yet this accident, together with the fea-fickness with which I was always afflicted. occasioned me to make very ferious reflections, on the risks I underwent. in croffing every day from Goree to the continent, on board so small a vessel. M. de Saint Jean, director of the island, having the greatest regard for me, and even more than I had for myfelf, was defirous to prevent the trouble and danger to which I exposed myfelf daily: for which reason he proposed to the master of Ben, a small village on the continent, within a league north of Goree, to entertain me at his boule, and to procure me all necessary fafeguards in walking over his lands, or in any other excursion I should chuse to more duesd all tomake,

make. This negro lord, having a very 1750. high affection for the French nation, was, overjoyed at the opportunity of entertaining a native of that country for fome months. The 24th of April, upon ar- 24 April. riving at the village, I found a very con-thor goes venient hut, which he had lately built and refides for his own use. It was surrounded among the by feveral courts and gardens, where negroes, he had likewise got a small but light closet for me, in fuch a fituation as I had defired on account of my obfervations. Nothing could be more conducive to my purpose, than the advantageous fituation of the village. On the one fide, the sea furnished me with every thing I could wish in regard to fishes and shells; and on the other I had plains, a confiderable forest, and, two leagues further, the mountains of Cape Verd. Here I had an ample field for my curiofity, as well concerning plants, as every species of animals.

live won son the ber tree now exil

final

April.

calabath

This is quite a fandy country like the neighbourhood of Senegal; but it forms a more rifing ground. Belides the fame plants, it produces a great number of others particular to itself; and a vast ma-Montrous ny acacize and calabath trees. Going from Ben to Cape Verd, I met upon the road, about half way, with two of the latter still larger than those I had admired in the neighbourhood of the ifland of Senegal. I measured their trunks with a packthread, and found the one to be feventy-four feet, and the other feventy-feven in circumferrence, that is, upwards of five and twenty feet diameter. These were the thickest I ever faw of the kind: and as Africa may boaft of producing the largest of animals, viz. the oftrich and the elephant; so it may be faid, not to degenerate with regard to vegetables, fince it gives birth

to calabash trees, which are immensly

larger than any other tree now existing, at-

least

TOSENEGAL, &c. 189 least that we know of; and probably 1750. the largest on the terrestrial globe. April.

I saw on the branches of those trees Nests of an forme birds nests, so vastly capacious as nary size. to surprize me as much as the trees themselves! They were at least three seet long, and resembled oval baskets, open below, and confusedly interwoven with very large twigs. I had not the pleasure of seeing the birds that built them; but the people of the village assured me, they had pretty much the sigure of that kind of eagle which they call mann. To judge of the size of those birds by their nests, they cannot be much inferior to an oftrich.

The double mountain of Cape Verd Country in the neighwas the only land-mark I had, to steer bourhood of Cape my course thro' this vast plain; for the Verd. sands were tossed so impetuously from one place to another by the winds, that it was

entall stands and and some whole thems

Music

im-

1750. impossible to distinguish any path or trace whatever: and even the eminences, which I met now and then, ferved only to bewilder me and my negroes, by being fo uniform. The only yerdure they had upon them, was fome shrubs known in India by the name of bois de renette *. Sometimes I walked through spacious fields. naturally fown with a kind of herb bafil. peculiar to the country. But what feemed worthy of observation to me, was, wherever it grew, it was very thick; and that very rarely any other plants whatever could be feen there, not even on those spots that were thinnest sown; as if the proximity thereof was hurtful to them. This herb basil is ligneous and lively; it forms a shrub two feet high, whose stem and leaves are of a reddish green, and diffuse a citron fragancy, extremely pleasing. The fands, tho' toft to and fro every instant, produced a great many other

plants,

^{*} Dodonæa. Linn. bort. Gliff. 148. dendrum foliis lauri angustis. Plum: cat. pag. 18.

plants, and especially dog-grass, with 1750. which nearly their whole surface was April covered.

My most usual walk was in the forest Forests of of Krampfane, which I likewise called the trees. forest of palmetto trees, because indeed, there is hardly any other to be feen in that neighbourhood. It begins within half a league of the village of Ben, and extends two leagues north-east, making a semicircle, and paffing within a quarter of a league of a ruinous village, called Mabao. fituate on the sea-shore within a league and a half of Ben. Its breadth is, throughout, nearly a quarter of a league. The foil is low, and in some places hollow like a canal, and feems to have been, heretofore, either a bason overflown by the ocean, or at least a falt-pan, which, in drying up, retained a black flimy fand, from whence the rain waters imbibe a faline tafte, that prevents their being drinkable. I would even venture

1550. April. branch of the marigot of Kann, whose communication has, without all manner of doubt, been interrupted by a fand-bank, which the winds have thrown up near its mouth.

Date trees.

From the fide towards Ben, as far as two thirds of its extent in length, this forest consists intirely of date trees, at the entrance of which there are small groves of oily palms: in the other part you fee only the latter fort. The date tree of this country is wild, and grows without any culture. The Serera negroes of the kingdom of Kaior, which includes Cape Verd, call it Kionkomm; and the natives of the country of Oualo, towards the island of Senegal, give it the name of Sor-for. It feldom rifes higher than from twenty to thirty feet: its trunk is round and upright, of a dun colour, and fix inches at the most in diameter. From the top of it there iffues forth a cluster of leaves from

from eight to nine feet in length, which 1750. extend all round like a parafol, and bend April.

a little towards the earth. The bottom part produces an infinite number of stalks like that of the middle; but they feldom shoot so high as four or five feet. These stalks spread the tree very considerably, so that, wherever it naturally grows in forests, you find it difficult to open a passage through its prickly leaves. The fruit thereof is shorter than that of the other fort of date tree; but the pulp is much thicker. It has a fugary and agreeable tafte, infinitely superior to the very best dates of the Levant; perhaps because it ripens better on the tree it to sout out of the ot hand

Fulture Mraimplane, is this: They cut a falk of The oily palm , is of all others that which hoots to the greatest height; Here are some from fixty to eighty feet in the falk in without

^{*} Palma altissima, non spinosa, fructu pruniformi minore, racemolo, sparso. Sloan Jam. vol. ii. tab. 215.

black, equally large through the Whole length of it, and from one to two feet in thaneter. Its head is loaded with leaves pretty much like the date tree. It bears a round fruit the fize of a limit but, and covered with a yellow pulp of which they make the palm oil. The hegroes call it

the palm wine, which is tracilly the todone of whey. There are several methods of extracting its the first practical
by the negroes, and which I have often followed, after their example, in regard to the date tree of the forest of
first meKrampsane, is this: They cut a stalk a
thod of extracting in few inches under the crown, and stave
only some leaves standing: then they say
the leaves above the incision, and faster
them with a peg to the tree. The
extremity of those leaves is folded afterwards into a calabath, or into a small

earthen

enwhen pot; parrow-mouthed, and fu- 1750 spended for as not to quit the leaves or so fall: By this method the fap which iffues from the stalk, distills along shaleaves, and is collected together in the carthen pot

sall of the original of the bound of adult of the The second method of extracting the Second method. palm wine confifts in making a round hole under the head of the tree, instead of cutting it; and in introducing into this hole a few folded leaves, which ferve as a gutter or pallage to convey the liquor into the pot or westel fastened to it.

on the nectools light which thinks in These two methods are easy to practise in regard to the date tree, as they only make an incision in the stalk, which is not above five feet high. But when they are obliged to extract the wine from a very tall tree, as from the oily palm, there is a great deal more difficulty in the operation. The negroes have an admirable way of doing it. They take a girth with la

1750. of the bark of baubinia, or of the leaves

of a palmetto tree, dried in the fun, beaten and twisted, the breadth of thrice the thickness of one's finger. At one end they make an oilet-hole, into which they put a little stick fastened across the other end, to serve as a button. This girth must be neither too pliant nor too stiff, but should have a sufficient elasticity to hinder it from giving way too much. It makes a fort of circle of two feet and a half diameter; and, when stretched by the man's body and the tree, it becomes an oval, leaving the distance Method by of a foot and a half between both. With this girth, they tie themselves as it were to the oily palm, and climb up at first with their feet, then working with their hands and knees, till the part of the girth, fastered to the tree, becomes lower than that which supports their reins and thighs, and ferves them as a feat to rest upon: then they draw near the tree, in order to raife the opposite end, which is foon

after

which the negroes climb the the trees.

after brought down below the part that 1750. fustains their reins, which have been raifed by working with the feet and knees. The girth cannot flip, because it is always very tight between the man and the trunk, and the latter is moreover very rough, In this manher they foon get to the top: there they fit on their girth, and, enjoying the liberty of their arms, they first cut the bottom of those fruits which they think are ripe; then fastening them to calabashes, they fill these with wine, and let them down by a cord : for they never forget, in going up, to carry with them a bandoleer, containing every thing requifite for this kind of work; fuch as a cord, a knife, and empty calabathes, to supply the place of those, which they have filled with liquor. When they want to come down, they go a contrary way to work, to what they did in climbing up; that is, they lower the girth from time to time instead of raising it. Their quickness and refolution, in this toilsome task, shew plainly how fupple and dextrous they

must

1750.

must be: for it is never mentioned that any accident has happened them, and they have nothing to fear but the breaking of the girth. dr. when win made guales

This kind of vintage must cost the negroes very little trouble, fince their wine is to cheap, that you have above forty pints upon the fpot for ten fous, and very often for half that price. It is not all made at the fame time, according to the custom of making wine of the juice of the grape in temperate countries. The trees furnish daily but a finall quantity of this liquor; and they are obliged to confume it directly, because it foon grows four. The negroes do not drink it till twenty four hours after it is drawn, that is, till it has fermented enough to stimulate the palate agreeably. It is drinkable till the third day, but then it grows heady, and there is danger in being intoxicated with it. After that time it turns into bad vinegar, which from contracts course bon singil word violate

Quality of

an abominable finali. For my past, and 1750 it will be even the same with such as defire rather delicacy than frength in wine. I always observed that it is delicious when new; and the newer the better: I have drunk of it a hundred times out of the calabathes fastened to the trees, and I never found it better than immediately after it is first extracted: then it has every good quality; which cannot be expected twelve hours after. It has as fweet a tafte as is requifite, heightened offentimes with a light tartnels, extremely grateful to the palate, In fort, the only fault we can reproach this liquor with, is that it will not keep for exportation to our part of the world, where it would be much more esteemed, than in its native soil. I must own notwithstanding that, as pleasing as this wine may be, yet it has not the good qualities of the juice of the grape, In what condition foever it may he when you drink it, sweet or four, 04

at least I have reason to pass this judgment upon it, after having made it my only drink during the fifteen days that I staid at Ben. For, so long as it continues sweet, it is not dangerous, whatever quantity you drink of it: and perhaps I was more affected with its correspond quality, because I had not been used to any fort of wine.

Plants of the forest of Krampsane.

Among the prodigious multitude of palmettos with which the forest of Krampsane abounded, I saw a great many scarce trees and plants. There were two species of tabernamentana, which I distinguished by the beauty of their foliage of a lively bright green: there was likewise a new species of bignonia, remarkable for the bulk of its showers, and the singularity of its fruit, which hung like large cucumbers at the end of its branches. Near the village of Mbao, I found the pepper plant of Æthio-

Æthiopia; that aromatic tree, which the 1750. French who are fettled at Senegal, diftinguish by the name of maniguette. Towards the extremity of the forest, I faw feveral species of anona's or corosoliers, the largest of which were in the woods, the middling ones on the hills, and the fmalleft in the plains exposed to the fun, most of them loaded with excellent fruit. Following the fea coast from Mbao as far as Rufisk, which is a confiderable village two leagues and a half from thence, I walked on fands all covered with fophora *, and with the Guinea aloe +, of which the negroes in that neighbourhood make very good ropes, not fo apt to rot in the water.

^{*} Sophora tomentofa, foliis subrotundis, Linn. Fl. Zeyl. 163.

⁺ Aloe Guineenfis, radice geniculată, foliis è viridi & atro undulatim variegatis. Comm. bort. Amft. Vol. ii. pag. 39. tab. 20.

1750. April.

From the ific of Gorce to Ruffle they reckon three leagues in a direct line, This voyage I had made by fea: but it is very difficult to land at the village, especially when the sea runs high, because the coust is low, and full of therp rocks. When you come to anchor oppolite the place, you have a most agreeable prospects the fituation of is upon a hiti planted with trees; the little rivulet whose brackish waters wind to the right, and form a peninfula; the forest with perpetual verdure, rising behind you in the form of an amphitheatre, constitute all together a most delightful landscape, hardly to be matched in any other part of the world.

The negroes hereabouts form to me to be very industrious: some of them were busy in heating the leaves of the Guinea aloe, to get out the hemp; others were twisting it, and making fiftiing employed in framing bows and arrows for the chace. After vifiting all the houses in Russik, I was very much furprized upon entering as it were into a second village: this was a cluster of huts not quite so large as the others, covered with sand, and like so many mansoleums or tombs erected over the dead bodies, that had been interred there, according to the custom established among the several clans of the Serera nation.

I had never as yet met with any at-sthof May, tack from the negroes till the 4th of the author is attacked May, when walking along the fea-fide by a Serera from Rufisk to Ben, which is above three leagues from thence, I was pursued by a Serera negroe, who rushing out of the neighbouring woods, shot his poisoned arrows against me and my negroe servant. I was above two hundred paces, before him; hesides I was a very good walker, and used to those satisfactory which

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1750. which a person often finks up to the calf of his leg. I therefore went on, but doubled my pace, without putting myfelf out of breath, or feeming to mind the menacing figns, by which he hoped to intimidate me and oblige me to ftop; for I had another resource in my gun, suppose he had come within reach. Doubtless this was one of those Serera savages, who are united under the form of a petty republic within ten leagues from thence; and he was come out of his own country in quest of plunder. Nothing could have tempted him but my gun; and, had he been more alert and crafty, he would not certainly have spared my life to come at it. This manner of attacking is very common with a race of moors called Azounas, who follow no other profession than that of lying in ambush behind a tree, either with a gun or a bow, in order to shoot a person whom they want to rob of his arms. The like accident had happened to me in my fecond voyage to Podor: but the Moor whom I espied, looked several times before

before he would attack me; and feemed 1750. greatly disconcerted, when he perceived that I was upon my guard, and aimed my piece at him.

Kennydone, I took different and round

As foon as I was out of danger from Shells on the Serera favage, I had all the pleasure in Mbao. the world in walking along a very white shore, where the sea continually throws up an infinite number of shells. There I beheld two species of what we call the concha Perfica *, which is the largest upon the coast: the fish it contains weighs fometimes five or fix pounds. The negroes broil and preferve it for times of famine, when they have recourse to this meat, which is tough and infipid, yet a great relief in cafe of urgent want. There was also plenty of cockles +, and tonnes +, and a vast num-

Dee the mitured history of hivalouse their * See the natural history of univalue shells, species 8. plat. 3. fig. 1 and 2.

⁺ See the natural history of univalve shells, fecies 9. plat. 4. fig. 5. Faval.

¹ Ibid. of concha operculata, fpecies-2. plat. 7. fig. 5. Tefan.

ben of bivelous hells, particularly what ive call the conobi micronau dib serio p

being beet being abuildibgusaeri Minni

Plants

As often as I went to the forest of found there. Krampsane, I took different and roundabout ways. Sometimes I Indirected inv Men dong the seadide, and found the Partium +, and the ketmia with leaves The thole of a linden tree, on the banks of the marigor of Kanne Hikewife men with the minenia t, the rimbat, the fagura; and forme acavid's or thorny plants upon hills: At other simes I traversed the femile fields, which were filled with a finall freries of anonas, and feveral of those atren crees, called tell by the negroes. Their truit refembles very much that of the monguier of India, and has both the figure and tafte of a citron. There was no want of cordoles destand towers to and a validation

ration

game

[.] See the natural history of bivalvous feells, species 6, plat, 18. fg. 2. Komas.

⁺ Spartium scandens, citri follis, floribus albis, ad modos confermi macentibus. Plum. cat. p. 19.

¹ Ximenia aculeata, flore villefo, fructu futed. Plum. per page to minimum a manau to visil

name in the legarts of there was likewife 17 go a great number of antilopes and of a finall species of hinds ", hardly as big as the platter flatted as it were. wherever I wode one of my megroes happened twice to dart his haffagave at them, and twice he hit his aim white affored me that he never coursed this animal any other way. The haffagaye is a kind of frear feven or eight feet long, with a piece of iron at the end of it like a pike. This is the weapon which the negroes most commonly use; and they darr it with their hand. My negroe threw his with great force and dexterity; and I learnt a few lesions of him which gave me great pleafure.

My time was divided among plants, a shells at nimals, and shells; but the latter occupied hard. The as much as all the rest. I availed my-self of the opportunity of being in a country, where they are in great plenty. The

· 1984 · 19 · 19 · 1984 ·

rocks

Cervus juveneus, perpusislus Guineensis. Sebe,

1750, rocks of Cape Bernard and Cape Manuel opposite the island of Goree, furnished me with a vast number of very beautiful shells, such as the purple fish, the largest species of star fish; and several soft fishes, as fea hares, cuttle fish, and polypus. Among the fands of the creek of Ben, I met with some cockles and bolothuria. Sometimes I entered the water up to my knees, to extract the shells hidden under the fand, while the negroes went further out to fish. They are accus-Catching tomed to catch them in this spot with the hassagaye, wading through the water up to the waift, and oftentimes deep-When they perceive the tunny, the capitaine, the fore mullet, or fome fuch large fish, they dart their hassagaye with a marvellous dexterity, and feldom miss their aim. This bay supplies them

likewise with a multitude of middling fish,

which they catch with nets. They split them in two, and lay them before the fun to dry, and then they fell them to the Moors; these in exchange supply them

diwing, the lab 43 fur. In a und 3.

of fish with the haffaguaic.

rocks

A Viela Belshill and salternagente profit

with millet, which is wanting in their 1750.

Country.

May.

These fishes procured me an observation, which would not perhaps have offered itself eisewhere. As the negroes leave them to dry on the top of their huts, the lions, tigers and wolves, which incessantly roam in the neighbourhood, are frequently enticed, by the fight and fmell thereof, into the village: and then woe be to the children, or even to the men that are found abroad. One night a lion Lions and and a wolf happened to enter, both toge-wolves roam tother, into the yard belonging to the hut gether. where I lay: they raised alternately their fore feet up to the roof, which I could eafily hear them do, and they carried off their provision. The next day we were certain, by the impression of their feet, which was strongly marked in the fand, that they came together; and we discovered the place from whence they had taken the two filbes: and no doubt

1750. doubt but each of them feized his prey! This was very moderate for two fuch voracious animals; but indeed they had not pitched upon the finallest, I know not whether this remark was ever made before, that the lion and the wolf prowl together tyet it is not an uncommon thing; there are daily instances of it in those parts ; almost every night the wolf is heard to how! close by the lion. The same thing I have observed, myself, a hundred times, in my excursions up the Niger; and I am perfectly fure, that the wolf frequently affociates with the lion, without having any apprehension of danger, Not that the fize of the African wolf, which is much superior to that of the European, makes any impression on the lion; but the reason is, he is no way tempted by the wolf's flesh. And what confirms me in this opinion, is, that I never observed, that the two lions which were brought up in the village of Senegal, ever attacked 1750. the dogs that were exposed to them, May. or that fell in their way, when they were unchained; whereas they darted instantly upon the first horse, or the first child they happened to meet.

A few days after this visit from the Boldness lion and the wolf, we received another ofthetiger. from a tigress, which came to the fame hut along with her young one, and likewife carried off two fishes There need only these two instances to shew how lazy and indifferent are Indolence the negroes, in regard to the da-gross. mage these animals do them, and the danger to which their own perfons are continually exposed. When one asks them for what reason they do not either chace away those animals, or withdraw their fifth at least in the night; they are satisfied with answering, that all the world must live, and that it would be a greater P 2 fla1750. flavery for them to lock up their fish every night than to catch them. And indeed we must own that the fathery on this coast is carried on with amazing facility. Wester Amin Last como conjunto hachile despot reals shalls

Their lands lie intirely uncultivated; either, because the sands are too ungrateful, or because, being accustomed to the fishing trade, which costs them less trouble, they neglect all agriculture, and rely on the Moors for every fort of necessaries. These people were here at that time, and had brought their baggage and provisions with them, not loaded upon oxen and camels as I had feen before to the north of the Niger, but only on aflonging to fes, of which they had great plenty. With difficulty did I know this animal, he had so fine a coat and looked so handsome in comparison to those of Europe; which I believe neverthelefs would make as good a figure, if the

greatly contribute to deform them.

The hair of the Moorish asses was of a fine bright mouse colour, over which the black leather thong which is laid along their backs, and asterwards crosses over their shoulders, has a very good effect. These animals are somewhat larger than ours, but they have likewise something in the make of their heads, that distinguishes them from a horse, and especially from a Barbary horse, which is the natural growth of the country, like themselves, but of a larger size.

avianda and the control of the control of the control of

I had some time before spent a few Character days among the negroes; but I never of the nemade such a long stay with them as at present by myself, and remote from any communication with my own countrymenter it was, that I had an opportunity of being perfectly acquainted with their character, customs, and manner of

P

liv-

1750. living: I was even present once at their ceremony of marriage: but this would make me digress too far from my fubject; I shall only observe that in general they are very humane and hospitable.

soth of June, departure from Goree.

Delayed at the bar.

The ninth of May, I returned from Ben to Goree, from whence I fet out the 10th of the enfuing month for the island of Senegal. I arrived the 15th at the bar, where I was obliged to wait for wind four whole days. The reader may judge, what uncafiness I must have suffered in a small vessel, tossed to and fro by the rolling billows. There I had leifure to confider the furprizing effect of the waves off the bar, and to direct my eye all round me, without perceiving any thing else but dazzling fands on one fide, and the liquid main on the other. True it is, that this fameness of prospect was varied,

a little by feeing the pirogues of the negroe fifthermen, who bravely ventured lover the bar, to bring us provisions, on board. Tho' the sea runs very high upon the coast, yet there is a great deal of fifh in the road. Our failors catched abundance with Fifting of their line, especially a sort of sea trush, grondin. which is very common in that fea-This fifth is very ready to bite; and, as foon as it has laid hold of the

hook, it is pleafant to fee what jerks and leaps it makes to get free;

to such a degree, that it inverts its Romach, which you fee liffuing out of its mouth in the shape of a carp's bladder: these strugglings are also attended with a hollow rumbling noise,

which has given it the name of grondin, or grumbler, whereby it is

known on this coaft.

A westerly wind resched me from soth of June, arthis wretched fituation, and carried me rives at the Dermy P 4 Over Senegal.

1750. Jupe. over the bar to the island of Senegal the 20th of June, I stood in great need of repole, after the fatigues I had undergone in my voyage; from which I fuffered much more, than I should have done from a long fit of illness. Every body knows, that the fea fickness is a kind of weakness or faintness, which causeth a nauseous ness and vomiting, more or less, according to the difference of conflictions exposed to that element. Some peaple are never feized with it: others feel the effects of it but the first day or two, and then it leaves behind it a certain dizziness: others are never seized with this disorder, except when the fea is very much agitated, and the motion of the thip becomes extremely violent, others, in short, and of this number was I, are troubled with it the whole time they are at fea, in short voyages even of two hours, as well as in long ones; in calms as well as in WAR TANTISAY NEW BOWLE

Sea-fickness, waat

formy weather. Robust and fee- 1750. ble constitutions are attacked with it June all the fame: there are only fome particular habits of body, those of children, for example, and persons weakened by fickness, and a few others in health, that are exempt from it. But of the latter, why fome should be fubject to, and others free from this illness, is not yet known. The general utility that would refult from this knowledge, which, in fo learned an age, might pass for a real discovery, deferves the attention of the gentlemen of the faculty *, who have occasion to perform a voyage by sea, or an opportunity of making these experiments. If once the cause of this malady were known, in the second way to second the

* To ferve the gentlemen of the faculty. who may chance to fet about an inquiry into the cause of this disorder, I shall insert here a few more remarks which I have made on this fubject, J. Those who were fick during

so, fafe preservative might be found out, which would render this element socessible to persons, who, with abilities and the best disposition in the world for fea voyages, are often difcouraged merely by this obstruchealth that the enem withdra in and To the victory with the line of the

the whole voyage, the first time they embarked on board a middling thip of 500 tutte, did not feel a dizzinels or head-ach, till after four hours were expired; the vomiting did not come on till the feventh hour, and continued the whole time of the voyage, which was two months, 2. When I did not flay long enough at lea to be troubled with a vomiting, le felzed me an hour or two after I went on shore, whether I had eaten or not at my landing 3. It very rarely happens that a fea lickness produceth a fever; it only disorders the stomach, without taking away the appetite. 4. I obferved that more women by far than men, escaped this illness; and more of those who are short-fighted than otherwise. 5. Finally, I took notice, that those who have been most afflicted with this complaint at sea, have always much better health on fhore, than fuch as feemed to be the most vigorous and hearty at fea.

To such a degree had this complaint from the most with the does not however meet with the number of the due degree of pity) ruined and quites at the disordered my stomach, that, upon ages my arrival at the island of Senegal, I saw no other way to re-establish my health, than by fixing my abode there, and renouncing all sea voyages, with a firm resolution not to go to sea again, till my return to France. Besides, I had reason to be satisfied with the voyages I had already made, as they had turned out

the neighbourhood of the island of Senegal, and the Niger, was likely to furnish me with many observations in physics and natural history, which had escaped me before. I staid therefore on this spot some years longer, dur-

fo greatly to the advancement of na-

tural history, so far as it regards the

fouthern parts of our fettlement: and

ing which time, befides these remarks, I had leifure to draw a few topogra-

phi-

1750. phical charts, by which I designed september to steer my course in my little voy-Plan of a ages. In the fequel of this narraneighbour-tive, I shall only take notice of the most remarkable occurrences in those negal. excursions in the neighbourhood of the island of Senegal.

vincentale and disable delands tem

tember, ed in a violent ftorm in the middle of the aiver.

ath of Sep- I had been long defirous of makhe is catch- ing a visit to the village of Kionk, which is in the wood island, within a league north of the island of Senegal. Thither at length I went the fourth of September in a shallop: but I was not fortunate in my return, for, when we were in the middle of the river, a violent eastwind arose, which warned us to make the best of our way to land in order to avoid the impending form. And indeed, I had hardly croffed the point of the Wood Island, when the tempest burst. As it was impossible for me to reach the shore, make what hafte I would, and the danger was im-----

Imminent, I immediately made for 1750. the fand bank, which joins this point to the island of Senegal. The net groes belonging to a pirogue, which had been also catched in the storm, leaped into the water up to their waift on this very fand bank, and and upheld it against the violence of the waves, which had overwhelmed it in the beginning: their example was followed by the fix negroes belonging to my Mallop, and by ten other men and women paffengers, who jumped immediately into the water, and; dividing themselves all round the boat, supported it against the raging elements. This was the furest way to hinder it from being overset, or thrown upon the bank, where it would have been infallibly broke to pieces: and we had reason to be afraid of one or other of those accidents, the bed of the Niger being considerably widened in this spot by the junction of its two branches, which form a kind of lake, of fo spacious an

1759.

s were

extent, as to be open one very fide to raving tempelts. The present weather might really deferve that name, the wind and rain being attended with flashes of lightning and loud claps of thunder. Notwithstanding that the negroes were so careful as to uphold my boat, yet this did not hinder it from making a foot and a half of water, partly with what fell from the heavens, and partly with the waves, which sometimes inwrapped it in the form of a sheet, in which I was also inveloped. Besides, I was washed, and, as it were, scowered by the rain, which the wind impelled against me with the utmost violence: and it came so very quick upon me, as almost to take away my breath, though I had sheltered myself under one of the failor's cloaks. the boifterous elements drove my negroes and the boat with fuch force, that I began to be afraid both for them and for myfelf. Yet they did not let go their hold; their courage supported them supwards of two hours, and preferved us from ruin. This

This whirlwind began at three o'clock in the afternoon, but did not afford very danmatter of observation, till towards of fire. the end. The wind ceasing about five, gave us an opportunity to steer to the north point of the island of Senegal. This was the nearest land, and I was in a hurry to reach it, in order to dry myfelf as foon as possible; for the boat was Still half full of water, notwithstanding the pains the ten passengers had taken empty it, as fast as the waves broke over it, which was almost every instant. While we were advancing with our oars, there appeared a phænomenon, which I had never feen before so near; and which I do not remember, that any writer has ever mentioned. M. This was a kind of ball, like unto a column of fmoke, that turned round upon itfelf it was from ten to twelve feet broad, and about two bundred and fifty in height; its bale was upon the water, and an easterly wind was wasting it

could to avoid it. They were better acquainted than I with the danger, to which we must have been exposed, had this whirlwind burst over us; its usual effect being to stifle those it invelopes, with heat, and sometimes to set some of their houses on fire; and they knew several instances of people, who had lost their lives by the like accident. They were so fortunate, as to leave this dangerous phænomenon upwards of eighteen sathoms be-

each other upon having so luckily escaped a torrent of fire, which by daylight appeared only as a thick smoke. The heat thereof, tho at the distance of above a hundred seet, was very strong, so as to make my clothes smoke, tho it had not time to dry them. The atmosphere had then 25 degrees of heat, and I believe that

the column of fmoke must at least have had

fifty.

statistical and being the and of the

hind the shallop, and they congratulated

fifty, to render the humidity sensible to real. It left behind it a very strong smell, more nitrous than sulphurcous, which annoyed us a long time, and the first impression was made by a light stimulation in the nostrils. This occasioned some to sneeze, but in me it produced a heaviness and difficulty of respiration.

In the month of March, in the 1751. I began to take the sh of March, explan of the neighbourhood of the cursion round the island of Senegal. The eighth, I set island of out in my pirogue, with my two sor.

balois, (the name offually given to the negroe fishermen) intending to make a tour round the island of Sor by water, as I was well acquainted with the inland parts. I therefore went up the Niger, keeping close along the island, up to its northern point, in order to enter the marigot of Kantai, Marigot of which washes its eastern shore, and to Kantai which washes its eastern shore, and to Kantai which washes its eastern shore, and to Kantai ful of sin.

1751: trace its course. As foon as I entered it, I thought myself rather in a sistpond, than in a river from fifteen to twenty fathoms broad , fo greatly did it abound with fifth. It was a pleafure to fail along a fiream as transparent and smooth as glass, while the banks were planted with very high mangroves, which afforded a verdant shade above the space of a league. The fish bounced and leaped on every fide of us; but what was most extraordinary, wherever we passed, some of them were continually leaping into the boat. The largest, as the best jumpers, passed over us; but almost all the middling ones fell in. As their motions in whirling about, did not feem natural or voluntary, I examined into them, in order to discover their cause: and I found, most of them had received the impression of teeth on some parts of their bodies; from whence L concluded, that they had been pursued by the

the larger fish, that wanted to prey 1751. upon them. For two hours that I kept! failing along this marigot, I reckoned two hundred and thirty fishes called care pets to which were catched in this mariner without any other artifice. This was a moderate fishing to mynegroes: as they were cubalots, that is, fishermen by trade, they did not feem to be much furprized at it: nay, they told me, that, when they fished for the large fish with the line or rod, they let their pirogue go down the current of these little rivers, and frequently depended more on the fmall fish that were taken in this manner, than on the chance of the large ones. Sandiavat

Never had cormorants, duckers, and Bird called falcon-fishers, finer sport: and indeed all falcon fishthe mangroves were covered with them. The falcon-fisher, which the Jaloffs call by the name of nguiarkol, and the French

encie Juper lis a for fair, were to more

be such white Q12 mag and soud by

^{*} A fort of fish like a carp, but shorter. and

1751. by that of namette, is a bird about the bigness of a goofe, with brown

feathers, except the head, neck, breast, and tail, which are a beautiful white. It has a ftrong hooked bill like an eagle, with sharp talons, incurvated in a femicircular form, which it uses most dexteroully in fishing. It generally perches on trees near the water; where as foon as it fees a fish draw near the furface, it darts upon, and feizes it with its talons. I killed one of them, which made my negroes look upon me with a very bad eye, because they fear and reverence this bird: they even carry their superstition so far, as to place it among the number of their marabous, that is, of their priefts, whom they look upon as persons sacred and divine. Yet they were appealed, when they faw, I had got them a fich of above four pounds, which this pretended marabou had carried to the bank bank of the river, in order to feast 1751.

There happened to me another adven-and of ture, of much the same nature, on the very extra-22d of April, at the village of Sor. I feene in rewas fitting on a mat in the middle of a viper. court yard, with the governor of the village, and his whole family; when a viper of the mischievous kind, after winding round the company, was drawing near to me. This familiarity I did not at all relish; and, to prevent any accident, I thought proper to kill it, directly, with a stick I had in my hand. Inflantly, the whole company flarting up, made loud outcries, as if I had committed murder; and they all flew away, to that the place was foon deferted. As the affair grew ferious, and the report thereof was spread over the village, I laid hold of this opportunity, now that I was by myself, to put the viper into my handkerchief, and to hide

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1751. it in my waistcoat pocket. This was the best method to make sure of this animal. which is fo difficult to be had in that country; and at the fame time the way to calm their minds, by removing it out Transfer of fight. I was not very fafe upon that foot; and perhaps, they would have done me some mischief but the master of the village, a man of good fenie, in whose house this whole affair had passed, soon reflected that both his honour and interest called upon him to quiet the tumult, and to filence the report. This he did effectually by means of his authority as governor; though his prudent conduct, and his character as marabou, were of no small affistance to him. This specimen shews how zealoully the negroes are attached to their eroes are very super-religion, and to their superstitious observances. They do not look upon ferpents as deities, yet they respect them enough not to kill them: they let them

grow and multiply in their huts, though

thefe

and to hid

The negroes are fitious.

these animals frequently eat their chick- 1751. ens, and dare to lie as it were with themselves. True it is, they seldom hurt any body; they must be either attacked, or wounded, or trod upon, before they will be provoked to bite.

risiw bearing

, paddle,

7thof May.

The 7th of May, I fell down the excursion Niger, in order to vifit the Marigot of rigot of Del, which is not very far from its Del. mouth. The wind was favourable; and my negroes, to avoid the trouble of rowing, put up their fail. A pirogue, only thirty feet in length, could not want a very large fail; and indeed they were not much at a loss to find one, A negroe erected a pole, of about ten feet, in the fore part of the boat, and then fet another fmall flick across the top of it, whereon he hung his paan. These paans are very useful; their shape is such, that you may occasionally make them serve for a sail. a sheet, a bed covering, a cloak, a petti-

coat.

coat, or a fash. I cannot compare the figure of this fail to any thing better, than to that of a banner or standard; with the two lower ends faftened to each fide of the pirague. The negroe who was upon the poop, steered with his paddle; while the other managed the fail, and turned it to the wind. With this feeble aid, I advanced near two leagues in less than an hour's time, and arrived at the entrance of the marigot of Del, Just where it discharges itself into the Niger, it is stopped up Its entrance by a bar of fand; where the river is stopped up by a bar. is sometimes so rough, when a north wind blows, as to hinder the large pirogues from entering. My people concerted their matters fo well, that they got over the difficulty, and, after conducting me through all the windings of the marigot, they landed me at the village of Del, which was built on the extremity of a bank of shells,

s for the that

TO SENEGAL, &c. that extended near a league to the 1754 northward. It appeared remarkable, May. that this bank was intirely bare to Bank of the furface, and that all the shells were of one species of oysters, which had heretofore lived on the mangroves of the neighbouring Marigots, in the same manner as I had observed of

these in the river Gambia.

The fea had brought into the Niger a prodigious quantity of sca poumons and velettes, which upon my return I had leisure to see floating on the water. The former of those fishes are known in this country by the name of Flemish caps, and the latter by that of galeres *. Nothing can bear a Galere, a nearer resemblance to a bladder filled with kind of sea air, and painted a beautiful red, than worm. the body of the galere. You can hardly - air Delig William (Sone Control of

[.] Urtica marina foluta purpurea, oblonga, cirthis longissimis. Slean. Jam. Vol. I. pag. 7. Tab. 4. Fig. 5.

distinguish any other part of it than a fringe upon the back, and eight fillets under the belly, that descend downwards, to serve, as it were, for a ballast to the bladder, which floats above water, and is toffed to and fro by the winds. This animal, though unshapen, and almost without any fentible motion, is cauftic to fuch a degree, that, when you touch it, you immediately feel a pain as if you were burnt, I took one into my hand to make a trial, and held it till I began to feel its effect : this appeared externally by a little redness, followed by a pricking and an inflammation, which did not cease till four hours after, The pain was communicated to all the tender parts of the body, as to the face, and especially to the eye-brows, by a very flender contact of the hand inflamed.

The remarks I had made for some years, tions to obferve the heats.

The remarks I had made for some years,
and with particular heats.

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TOSENEGALASC.

views, in regard to the heats of the coun- 1751, try, appeared to me important enough to be enlarged, in such a manner, as to render them susceptible of comparison. I resolved therefore to observe, during the housest days in the year, the degrees marked by M. de Reaumur's thermometer, when exposed to the open air; and those which a fecond instrument of the like nature, would mark, duting the fame time, in the fands exposed to the fun. M. Andriot, who, belides, being extremely well skilled in natural philosophy, is a very accurate observer, was of great affiftance to me on this occasion: for he was so good, as to be at equal trouble with me, whenever I wanted a person to make experiments into one place, correspondent to those I was performing in another. Such was the tribute we mutually paid to the friendship, which had so closely united us ever fince our youth. whole wite, I observed the degrees of

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1751. and edition thursten the ten .1751

I pitched upon the 4th of July, to sth of July, make one of those important observaheat of the tions on the island of Senegal. The fun was then distant from our zenith. no more than feven degrees north, fo that it might be looked upon as vertical towards noon-day. The Savanna which extends west of the fort St. Lewis, like a great plain, level with the neighbouring sea, and exposed to the winds on all fides, especially to the west, which blew that day, afforded me the best place I could defire for my purpose, because it has no shelter. A little fand-hill about four feet high, that flood very conveniently in the middle of the plain, was the foot on which I fet an exact thermometer before the fun, fixing the ball in the fand. I placed it towards ten o'clock in the morning, and there it staid till three in the afternoon. During this whole time, I observed the degrees of afTO SENEGAL, Sc.

afcention in the liquor of the ther- 1750, mometer every five minutes. M. Andriot kept an account thereof, under a small shed of straw, whither I retired from time to time, to fkreen myself from the rays of the sun, which made my head very dizzy. He staid to watch this instrument, and to make his observations, while I went to the fort, in order to confult another thermometer, which I held continually suspended in the open air, in the shade, eighteen feet from the ground, to avoid the reflection of heat. This marked 30 degrees for the heat of the open air, in the coldest exposition of the island, while the other marked the heat of the fand at 60 degrees : I had put three eggs into the ground, and covered them with fend, where I left them about three hours, ed t in order to know for certain what effect this heat would produce upon them:

I perceived they were not hard but the white fluck a little round the shell; and they were fit for eating accordingly we dined upon them, and found them very good. There is reason, to believe that, if the tube of the thermometer had been long enough to give more room for the liquor to play, it would have afcended a great deal higher than 60 degrees; as I perceived afterwards, upon repeating these observations with other thermometers graduated up to boiling water, I shall not descant any further on these experiments; it will, suffice at present to have only hinted at them, as I intend to enter into a more minute detail, in my treatife of observations on natural history. on 10 had I

tember. violent form.

oth of September, there arose in the night a violent east wind, which brought on a very heavy rain, attended with fuch quick flashes of lightning, that they feemed to be one continued co-

ruf-

TO SENEGAD, &c.

ruleation. The thunder burit at the fame time in two different places in the ifland of Sonegal ; one was the mail of Effects of a vessel; the other the hospital; within two Bundred fathoms of ohe another on the fame bank of the Niger. That which fell on the hospital, did no other harm breaking two weather cocks on the fame pavilion, knocking a few miles off the top of the house, splitting several of the rafters, and burfting three stones on the floor, where it spent withelf on the lime, without hurting any of the fick that were very near bed There was fomething more remarkable poin at what lidhappened voto the mast pose the ship, which was about forty feet high, and done all over with pitch and tar. The thunder furrowed it two inches deep, but unequally, from one end to the other, without touching the iron work, the tackling, or any of the pitched cordage with which it was furrounded; and it fpent

ruthed

1751.

spent itself on the quarter deck, which was covered with a large tarpawling of thick canvass, also done over with pitch and tar. It seems as if the rosin broke the violence of the thunder, and diverted it another way. It is well known, that the outsides of those vessels are well secured with pitch and tar, so that their external surface may be considered as one continued lay of rosin. A negroe, who had been entrusted with the care of the ship that night, having lain bimself down to sleep in the back cabbin, selt a sudden shock, of which there remained very strong impressions the next day, in every part of his body. I

leave it to philosophers, curious about this fort of phænomena, to judge, whether there can be a greater analogy be-

tween the ordinary effects of electri-

city, and those produced on this oc-

Effects fimilar to those of electricity.

Floating The waters of the Niger were so island on the Niger. swelled with this storm of rain, and rushed

casion by thunder.

ruthed on with fuch precipitation, that 1751 they loofened, four or five leagues separate from thence, a little flip of land which floated along with the stream. The next morning it was feen, like another Delos, following the current of the Niger, and steering its course towards the feat Its agreeable verduce, and the beautiful disposition of the trees with which it was covered, gave it the air of an inchanted island, and raised a defire in the inhabitants of Senegal to get it into their possession. Immediately a boat was fent, and overtook it; the failors fastened several ropes to the trees, and obliged it, in spite of all the refistance it could make, to join the fands of Senegal. The whole village flocked to fee this curious spectacle; never had they beheld to delightful an island: they all seemed cager to go upon it, but were afraid of its roots, which they took for

A new species of felban.

fer-

September.

ferpents. I measured it, and found it but four fathoms diameter : it was round, and bore only a spinous shrub ten feet high, to which the negroes give the name of billeur *. Its roots were extremely close and inter-twisted one within the other: they held but very little clay together, which the water could not wash away. The wood of this plant is a vast deal lighter than cork: the inhabitants of the country make use of it in fathing, when they want to swim over the river, where it happens to be too broad. - Liter of the elegen hasvanible allegan

The negroes are all excelmers.

The negroes are all excellent fwimmers; and nothing can be a ftronglent swim- er proof of this, than the intrepidity, with which they expose themselves on the bar. The twenty-fifth of the fame month, I was on the feashore, busied in observing the height

^{*} A new species of selban.

of the equinoctial tides, when a French 1751. veffel arrived opposite to the fort September of Senegal. The ship's boat advanced towards the bar; and there waited till fome body from shore came to fee what dispatches it brought. The negroe, who was used to this business, jumped into the water to fetch the letters, though there was a greater swell than usual; because the tides rose to a higher; pitch. To behold the violent agitation of the fea, the billows rifing above ten feet, and then falling like fo many sheets of water, with prodigious noise and weight, one would never imagine that he could poffibly furmount them: yet he paffed them all, riding upon the backs of fome, and plunging under others, where he feemed to be buried, till at length he happily got on shore, with the dispatches committed to his care. Neither is the sea the object most to be dread =

constitued automorphisms

1751, dreaded during this passage; there are fuch terrible requiens on the bar, that they oftentimes devour the divers. No doubt but it was owing to fome accident of this kind, that a negroe difappeared this very month, and was never hoa MORIT DIS Hideold more heard of.

fifh.

Trembling The next day we catched a fifth in the river, that has very little relation to any of the known inhabitants of the liquid element. Its body is round, without scales, and fmooth as an eel, but much thicker in proportion to its length. The negroes call it ouaniear, and the French trembleur, or quaker, from the effect it produces, which is not a numbres like that arising from the cramp-fish, but a very painful trembling in the limbs of those who touch it. This effect did not appear to differ fentibly from the electrical motion of the Leyden experiment, which I had felt several times; and it is communicated in the same manner by 1751. simple contact, with a stick or iron rod september five or six seet long; so as to make you instantly drop whatever you hold in your hand. I have tried this experiment several times, as well as that of eating of this sish, which, though very well tasted, is not equally proper for all constitutions.

The island of Senegal, as I have several times observed, is no more than a naked sand-bank, which produces but a few herbs, and those insufficient and improper to seed the company's slocks. This has obliged them to look out for a place, where the cattle might find pasture, and security against the depredations of the Moors and the negroes. These advantages are in some measure sound on a pretty large island, called Griel, within two leagues north of Senegal. The conveniency of getting to this place, by means of a small river

ver of the same name, and the agree-able description I had heard of it, in-1751. October.

tober, voyage to the itland of Griel.

duced me to take a trip thither for a 2d of October, few days. I fet out the 2d of October, by the fame canal, which is parallel to the principal branch of the Niger, and separated all along from the sea, only by a narrow neck of fand, about a hundred fathoms at most in breadth. It was covered with pelicans or wide throats, which moved with great state, like swans upon the water. Without doubt, these are the largest birds in the country, next to the offrich. I killed one, whose wings, measuring from one end to the other, were above ten feet wide. Its bill was upwards of a foot and a half long; and the bag, fastened underneath, held near two and twenty pints of water. This bag is not only for fishing; but is like a kind of casting net, which nature hath given those birds, to facilitate the means of proyiding for their wants. It could not

not be given to any animal that knows how 1751. to make better use of it, for they may be October. faid to fish in perfection. They generally Their fwim in flocks in deep water, and form fishing. at first a large circle, but contract it afterwards, by drawing near one another gradually, in order to bring the fish along with them, which the motion of their feet has confined within that space: and as foon as they fee a fufficient number of them together, they plunge their bill wide open into the water, and thut it again as quick as a fisherman casts and draws his net. In order to empty their bag of the water with which it is filled, they only lean their bill on one fide, and open it gently; then the water runs out, and leaves the fishes dry, which they eat very quietly on fhore. ub tan w pabols has to triniw to his

When we were within a quarter of Prospect a league of the island of Griel, we from the wood of thought we faw a beautiful avenue of Griel.

sendans his received to be 20

trees,

1751. trees, which prefents itself fideways: their fymmetry would even make one imagine, that they were planted on purpose to form a delightful vista; yet they were only calabashes, sown by the hands of nature, and easily known by their make and size. Except these trees, of which there is a great number on this point, and a sew managoves there are hardly any others mangroves, there are hardly any others on the illand. The meadow is on this fame fide, on a red fand hill, which is fown here and there with a few shrubs, and especially with tithymals, whose white flowers are agreeably intermixed with the lively colours of the superb lily * by which they are topped. The rest of the island is fmooth even plain, the greatest part of which is laid under water during the rainy feafon; it is uncovered in the winter by draining the waters into a fmall rivulet, which feems to form

A new species of methonica.

form a little life in the larger island 1751.

of Griel. This part balances the good october.

qualities of the other; for it produces

only two forts of plants*, of which

the cattle do not seem to be very

fond.

After passing the rivulet that se-village of parates the little isle from the larger pound. I found towards the north the village of Dounn on a reddish sand, the ground somewhat higher, and surprizingly fruitful. Proceeding still further north, I came to the village of Nguiago, from whence I perceived, at the distance of a league to the right, Nguiago, the village of Torkrod, which is separated from thence all the way, by a morass. As this morass is full of water and reeds, it abounds with aquatic birds, such as curlieus, wood-cocks, teals, and wild ducks. The latter

^{*} The marine crista or salicornia, and Linnæus's eressa. Spec. Plant. p. 223.

1751. October.

are of a small size, and a little different from our European wild duck: there is fuch plenty of them in this neighbourhood, as to cover a very large tract of ground: they shew themselves by thousands, and you kill them as it were by thousands. It is not uncommon to fee thirty of them drop at one shot, and oftentimes twice the number. True it is, that these lucky shots are referved for the negroes : for befides their being very good markimen, and their making use only of those large fowling-pieces called buccaneers; and aiming at those birds only upon level ground, and in large plains, they have still another advantage over Europeans: they can draw near the game, by means of the colour of their bodies, which being black from head to foot, are confounded with the verdure of the field; whereas the white face of the Europeans, or the smallest bit of a fleeve or neckcloth, is perceived afar off

TO SENEGAL, &c. 251 by those birds, and the least noise in 1751. the world frightens them away, before occober. you come within reach of them.

The negroes of this neighbourhood are Beds of obliged to lie on very high beds, in of Griel. order to be sheltered from the musketoes, of which there are great fwarms, especially in this month. These beds are from five to fix feet fquare, and confift of a double texture of flicks laid very close together, and supported by four posts, which are raised eight or nine feet from the ground. They mount this kind of platform by step ladders, fastened to two of the posts perpendicularly over one another. This fitua-Polition. tion is far from being convenient; for it is very difficult to afcend those ladders, most of them being out of order by frequent mounting; and one's foot is apt to flip towards that fide which they incline to: yet the negroes climb them with great eafe.

1751. October.

At fun-fet, the mulketoes iffue forth in fwarms, and then the negroes betake themselves to their platform. There they fup and smoke, and that for a great part of the night, after which they fleep till day in the open air. I had never used the precaution to take a tent with me; so that I lay with them and in their manner, that is, almost naked, the great heat not permitting me to wear any fort of garment. The musketoes indeed were not fo troublesome here as under cover; still they sucked a good deal of blood, and every morning I had my face disfigured with pimples. This, however, did not hinder me from paffing my nights very agreeably. The sugar pured most rel at noit

Beautiful sky at Sene-

Besides the amusement I received from the fables dialogues, and witty stories, with which the negroes entertained each other alternately, according to their custom; I was ravished with behold-

holding a fky, ever blue and ferene, and be- 1751. foangled with stars that shone forth with the brightest lustre. Raised on this platform. as on a finall observatory, open on all fides. I could eafily accompany those luminaries with my eye, in their common revolution from east to west. Oftentimes, I did not lose fight of the upper edge of the disk of the fun and of the larger stars, till they plunged under the horizon of the ocean: and it was not uncommon for me, to pay the fame attendance upon some fars, much below the fecond magnitude; though they could not be difcerned after their rife, till towards the third or fourth degree of their afcention above the horizon, by reafon of the vapours, which are more frequent upon land. And con services

The negroes likewise pointed to me The nea confiderable number of the Aars, groes, have s that form the chief confiellations, as of the Leo, Scorpio, Aquila, Pegafus, Ori-

on,

1751. on, Sirius, Procyon, Spica, Canopus belides most of the planets, where with they were well acquainted. Nav. they went for far, as to diffinguish the fcintillation of the ftars, which at that time began to be visible to the eye. It is amazing, that fuch a rude and illiterate people, should reason so pertinently, in regard to those heavenly bodies: for there is no manner of doubt, but that, with proper instruments and a good-will, they would become excellent aftronomers; by reafon that they live in a climate that enjoys a clear sky, almost the year round; and, as they spend their time out of doors, they have all manner of conveniencies for examining, every moment, into what paffes in the flarry regions.

are frequently burnt.

(10)

The ne-groes huts A few days aften my return to the island of Senegal, the north part to so, beergio, Aquila, Pegalus, One

The mentace likereile priested to receive en-

of the village was burnt down to 1755. the ground. The reader may eafily octob imagine what havock the flames, efpecially, when fanned by a very ftrong morth-east wind, must have made aextremely close to each other, and had been dried by the heat of the fun. In vain did the marabous climb on the top of the cottages, and fpit into the blaze; in vain did they mumble over their prayers, and act a thousand ridiculous mummeries: not one of the huts, over which they performed those charms, escaped a neither was the fury of the flames affuaged, till the inhabitants, finding the inutility of those fuperstitious incantations, bestirred themfelves with all their might, in throwing water and fand to extinguish the fire. The day following, they endeavoured to repair their loss: new cottages were raised on the same spot; and in a few days w.hr

1751. Ottober.

days there were no veftiges remaining of the damage done by this conflagration, So common are these accidents in this country, that I remember fome years wherein not a month, nay fometimes not above a week or a fortnight elapfed. without one hut or another taking fire; and fometimes it spreads with such fury that, in the space of five years, one half of the village of Senegal, extending very near four hundred fathoms, was twice burns down to the ground, in less than four and twenty hours. The cause of these misfortunes, is frequently unknown, for they commonly happen in the daytime, during the most foorching heats of the fun: and the negroes are fo used to them, that they seldom lose either their lives or effects, so that they expect them continually, without living under any great apprehenfion, see the last the store of

work is the best stood stood out to Lome

dayo

TO SENEGAL, &c.

The ifland of Sor is divided into two unequal parts by a small marigot, the mouth of which is opposite to the fort on the illand of Scriegal. I entered it the first time, in my pirogue, the 8th of December. This rivulet is fo narrow, that the branches of the mangroves on each fide join together, and form a kind of isle or covered alley, which extends almost a quarter of a league in length. I paid dearly for the fervice those trees did me, in theltering me from the heat of the fun; for in an instant I was attacked very much by a prodigious fwarm of mulketoes, and large flies, * whose stings are as painful as those of bees. My negroes, being naked, fuffered infinitely more than I: their bodies were covered with these infects in fuch a manner, that they made feveral rows close upon one another. I really believe fuch a spectacle was never feen before; and that all thefe stingings drained them of as much blood, as they rom - die - many

8th Decem. Excursion to the marigot of the ero-

> with the mulketoes

Laterant

Tabanus. The gad-fly:

OWI

would

1751. December.

Sate Process.

Magazin sala Magazin sala Magazin would have loft by a copious bleeding. This canal must have been the great thoroughfare for the musketoes coming from the bottom of the wood, which seems to be the general magazine of the country, from whence they issue out in swarms, and spread themselves among the villages and other places inhabited by man or beast.

Were it not for the above inconveniency, this rivulet would be the finest place in the world for a trip on the water. The breadth of it is from two to four fathoms; with as many, and sometimes more, in depth. It is frequented by a great number of birds, all excelling each other in beauty; and especially by feveral species of the king-fisher, whose plumage is agreeably depicted with variety of the most lively colours. There you hear also a continual warbling of birds, with repeated echoes the many trunks of trees, with which the banks are lined. The two DILOW

Frequented by very beautiful birds.

figura grad.

Extraoriumini seta del wi controllario

two extremities thereof are shopped up with a shoal, which admits of none but piregues to enter: yet taking the opportunity of the tide, shallops might be sent up it by the marigot of Kantai, to cut down a confiderable quantity of man- Confiderable mangroves. groves, most of which are from twelve to fifteen inches in diameter, and might be of excellent use for timber to build houses. The bank at the east end of the rivulet is a flimy fand, which is bare at low water. When I passed that way, half a dozen crocodiles lay firetched out before the fun, immoveable, like fo many pieces of log-wood, on the ground. Whenever the negroes come near this place, they are fure to find these animals here; and thence it is that they call this rivulet the marigot of the diafiks, which, in their language, signifies the rivulet of the crocodiles.

To the right of this shoal, I entered Finise of the marigat of Kantai, where the ne-or lea-cow. groes were at that time very bufy in fishing

- Carrier Lister Con. . St. . St.

1751. December. fishing for the lamantin, or fea-cow, 10 This fish, which has been mentioned by all voyagers, and which many have described without being well acquainted with it, and which probably gave rife to the fable of the mermaids, deferves fo particular a description, that I shall be excused from faying any thing more about it in this compendious halvative. There does not pass a year in which the negroe inhabitants of this neighbourhood, who have referred the fifthery to themselves, exclusive of all others, do not catch half a dozen, the greatest part of which they fell to the fort of Senegal. It is caught only in December and January, which are the most favourable months. The flesh of it is fine eating; being of the colour of veal or pork, and in tafte partaking of both; but it feldom is fo tender.

The feather in upon the Niger.

Ascending the Niger, as we came out of the marigots of Kantai and Quiara, I saw along the coast, of Barbary the several gutters,

ALTHOUGHT DEVENT

gutters, which the sea had made the day before by dashing with such violence against the sands. It was still high enough to pour its waters into the river: and what is very remarkable, in regard to this effect of a swelling sea, is, its having appeared feveral years fuccessively during the winter folflice, and not in the equinoxes, as if the tides were stronger in that feafon of the year than in this.

which had bed but

S,

Notwithstanding that I made all the very short twilight. hafte I could, yet I did not get back to the point of the island of Senegal till fix in the evening; and when I reached the fort, it was night. For in those countries, where the nights and days are almost equal the year round, they have but very little twilight, and there is not the difference of a quarter of an hour between fun-fet and darkness: fo that, as foon as it is ten or fifteen degrees below the horizon, an opake gloom spreads itself over the surface of the earth,

and it is then as dark as midnight.

1752. June.

* June. Tilling of lands in the ifle of Sor. in the

Pleased with what I had learned by a constant navigation for feveral months fuccessively, in all the small rivers of the neighbourhood of the ifle of Sor, I was not willing to lofe the opportunity of feeing their method of tillage, which was to be in the beginning of the month of June, the next year, in that island. Early in the morning, the 8th of June, all the inhabitants attended the lord of the village into the field, finging and dancing as on a great festival: Some carried their tabour and pipe; others had no other tool or instrument than a small spade helved with a stick, which was bent in the middle, and long enough to prevent their being obliged to floop to work. After they had all danced a few minutes on the very spot, the latter, without interrupting the cadence, began to throw up the ground with their spades, in order to root out the weeds. During this operation they accorded fo well with the found and measure of the instruments in their motions and finging, that you would have

have concluded all those husbandmen to 1752 be professed dancers and singers. It was pleasing to see how they tossed their arms and legs, and into what contorfions they threw themselves with an air of content, according as the found of the tabour was more or less quick, and as the guiriots gave more life to their finging. They were not to leave off working till night; in two days they were to refume their work again: and then their talk confifts in digging with the same spade a few holes, into which they throw a few grains of millet, over which they immediately spread the earth with their feet. When this is done, they rely upon the rains for every thing elfe, and they are excused from all kind of labour till harvest-time. Their longans, for such is the name they have given to their ploughed lands, are generally enclosed with a hedge of thorns, or a kind of tithymallus, or herb spurge, which Tithymallus is never very large, nor tall. The bark of it is so white as to render it re-\$ 4

A March

markable

1752. June. markable above all other trees. It grows very fast after the manner of all soft wood, and when cut, it sheds a large quantity of white thick liquor like milk, which slows in great abundance.

Birds of the ifland of Sor.

When these husbandmen were set about their work, I left them to go a shooting as far as the village of Sornguiann, which is within a finall half league of Sor, or Sor-baba. I killed fome woodpeckers, partridges, larks, and a few geefe. The geefe of this country, which the negroes call bitt, have nothing pleasing in the colour of their feathers; but they are remarkable for a large bunch on their head, crowned with feveral caruncles, which ferve for an ornament. Their shoulders, just on the spot where the inflection of the wing is made, are also armed with a horn like a prickle, near an inch in length: and they use it very dexteroully against birds of prey that want to attack them. markelle

Goofe.

Tribymellin

My

My courfing was greatly improved by the discovery I made, keeping along the bank of the neighbouring marigot of Sor-baba. There were fresh traces impreffed in the fand, which I eafily found to have been made by a crocodile: this excited my curiofity: I wanted to follow the scent, in order to find out this animal; but after feeking for it in vain, I came to a place about fifty paces diftant from the rivulet, where the fand scemed to have been disturbed. My negroes judged that this might be the place where the crocodile layed its eggs; and they were not mistaken: for, after digging about half a foot, they found thirty eggs, which they carried away, intending to make good cheer with them. They were hardly larger than goofe eggs, but caft a small fcent of musk, which would doubtless have been very agreeable to those who like that fmell. mile alve data to be the suited and a collection

I had been now upwards of three years in the country without having had any abanow_H opportunity

1752. June. opportunity of feeing the lime-kiln. This is a place so called from the lime made of which there is proof shells. digious plenty in that neighbourhood. As it is on the bank of a small river, which communicates with the Niger, the paifage to it, from the island of Senegal, is easy by water. I arrived there the 20th of August on board a vessel which was going to load with lime. This is one of the most delicious countries upon earth, being diverlified with large plains, agreeable valleys, excellent pasturage at all times for black and for small cattle, and with little rivers, the banks of which are covered with mangroves and other trees in perpetual verdure. The chief of those rivers bears the name of the lime-marigat: it is large, and very full of fish, abounding especially with fine eels, carp, and macheirans. The latter is a very good fift, and extremely fat; but it is dangerous while alive, being armed on the two fins of each fide, and on that of the back, with a very harp dart, wherewith it wounds

20 August.

Voyage to the lime marigote

Fish called

coportunity

wounds those who attempt to catch it. These wounds are venomous, and difficult to cure 1 Min walder

inal, more y Woods

1752

Going ashore on the south side of this Bank of marigot, I found myself on a bank of shells, where a number of lime-kilns had been dug very near the sea-side. This bank, tho' bare of earth, was covered with a very thick wood; there were even fome calabath-trees of above three feet diameter. I kept walking among the shells as far as the village called Montel, which is more than half a league from thence fouthward; and I came back another way, in order to discover the breadth of it. What diverted me most in this expedition was, to fee the manner in which one of my negroes killed a crocodile feven feet long. Having spied this animal afleep among brambles, at the foot of a tree that grew near the bank of a river, approached for foftly as not to awake crocodile him, and then ftruck him very dexteroully bit of bary to the say the beat of a with

in a substitution of the s

with his knife in that part of the neck where there are no bones nor feales, and pierced him nearly quite through. The animal, mortally wounded, and curling himself, the' with some difficulty, hit the negroe on the legs with the end of his tail; and fuch was the violence of the blow, that he laid him flat upon the ground, The latter, without letting go his hold, rose up again immediately; and, that he might have nothing to fear from the crocodile's devouring jaw, he enwrapped it with a paan, while his comrade held the tail, and I got upon his body in order to keep him down. Then the negroe drew out his knife again, and cut off the head quite clean from the body. This expedition was foon over. The negroes did all they could to drag the body of the crocodile as far as the veffel, for it was too heavy for them to carry; but finding their endeavours ineffectual, they got it into a boat in order to put it on board. By this exploit my negroe acquired high applause from all the laptots of the vessel, and

BOUNCHAIR TOUR en braneau all

-accept Mide eda lo kola

Is avoid

and from the neighbouring inhabitants, who had been long acquainted with his dexterity in hunting the crocodile. They did honour to their prey; for that very In sea a evening they eat feveral flices of it. I tafted forme, which to me did not appear. to have so strong a scent of musk, as it is generally faid to have, and I found it tolerable good eating.

The day following I made an excursion on the other fide the lime-marigot, and was not a little surprised to find a great number of hills of red fand upwards of thirty feet high. The *neous, the *dethars, and feveral other fruit-trees, gave undoubted proofs of the fecundity of this foil: I faw chameleons on every thrub. and when they were touched, they changed from a green colour into black. They had fine sport at that time in hunting of grass-hoppers, with which the earth was in fome measure covered: for it is a

Liench, and

mistake

New species of trees never yet described.

mistake to imagine that this animal does not eat. Let not its meagre body impole on us: as many as I found had their stomachs filled with butter-flies, and especially with grass-hoppers; which shews that they do not fast so rigidly as the vulgar formerly imagined; but this is not the only error from which they ought to be set free. Autoribic good eding.

Opinion of the negroes in regard to the formation of the nks of

To return to the banks of oyster-shells which cover the lime-fields upwards of half a league; the negroes have also their prejudices. Some of them tell us that this bank was the work of monkeys in former ages; and that these animals being then more numerous than they are at prefent, eat up those oysters. Others will have them to be the shells of oysters which their fore-fathers smoke-dried, as they themselves used to do, not a great many years ago, when the mangroves of this river furnished them with wood, as those of the river Gambia do, to this very day. The French,

1752. August.

French, who have examined these banks, and heard the reasonings of the negroes in regard to their formation, are of the latter opinion. But even were we to grant both these points, still they will be puzzled to account how these shells should be arranged thus in the regular manner we find them, without any intermixture. Befides, the quantity of oysters that could be shelled and dried in a day, is so very small in comparison to the immense heap of shells in question, and would suppose such a feries of ages to form this bank, that the thing lofeth all probability in the supputation. Without having recourse to such precarious proofs, in order to explain in what manner this and fuch other heaps of shells have been formed, we have only to reflect on what passeth in the river Gambia, where the oysters considerably multiply on the roots of mangroves, and in feveral parts have formed very high banks of shells: and we shall have reason to believe, that these spots were formerly the beds of rivers, where

1752. Angus where the oysters also lived on mangroves a that these beds successively changed place, and that the sea retiring left these hanks bare, and upon a level, eight or ten seet above its surface.

Return to the island of Senegal,

where

The 23d I returned to the island of Senegal in my piroque: though it was very light and tottering, yet I chose rather to make use of it, than to wait for the conveniency of the veffel that had brought me from thence. My negroes strove who should swim the fastest, and reconducted me, in less than two hours, two leagues and a half, which is the distance from the lime-kiln to the illand of Senegal. Notwithstanding the roughness of the water, and a strong gust of wind which blew from the east as we got out of the marigot, yet not a fingle wave broke in upon us, nor did we perceive the least sprinkling, because we were sheltered under the mangroves. The wind was now quite down, and there were only a few large waves here and there, when a pirogue put off

to cross the river: the pirogue was small, and had three men in it wwo of them rowed with a paddle, during which exercife they fung a kind of fong, the burden of which I heard at a great distance, and it was not disagreeable. The ne- Piroque groe, who steered with his paddle, was probably in the fault; or elfe he, who was employed in the middle to empty the water which entered the pirogue, must have inclined too much on one fide, and deftroyed its equilibrium; or whatever other cause it might be, the boat overfet, with the negroes in it. Though they were very active fellows, they had all the difficulty in the world to fet it right again: yet, at length, by pulling it backwards and forwards, and still continuing to swim, they emptied the water out of it, and got into it once more. In any other circumstance it would have been a divertion to fee their manner of acting, as well as the dexterity and Arength with which they extricated themselves out of danger; and it may

1752. Augus. be faid, that they succeeded extremely well. This accident is not uncommon; but as they are all excellent swimmers, there is no instance that any of them ever perished.

Gigantie ferpent.

Towards the middle of the next month, I had a prefent made me of a young ferpent of the gigantic species. This present gave me great pleasure, because it was the first of the kind that I had seen; and I have fill preserved the skin of it intire in my cabinet. It had been lately caught in the marigot of the island of Senegal, and was yet quite alive. The length of it was three feet and some what more: its colour was a yellow livid ground, with a large blackish band all along its back, on which were scattered a few yellow irregular spots. There was a glossiness over its whole body, which gave it a smooth polish as if it was varnished. Its head was neither flat nor triangular like that of a viper, but round and fomewhat long. This ferpent, finall as it was, system out of danger; and it may

1752. August.

give me a sufficient idea to distinguish it from all the other species, yet it was only an imperfect representation of the large enes, of which I should never have formed an adequate notion, if a little while after they had not brought me, at different times, two of a middling fize, the largest of which was twenty-two feet and a few inches long, and eight inches broad. The colour of its skin was a dark grey, with a few yellowish lines not very apparent: the flein, firetched out, was from five and twenty to fix and twenty inches broad. They left it with me intire, with a flice of its flesh, the remainder of which was to ferve as a regale for feveral days, to the perfort who caught it, together with the rest of the village. The head, which was fill to it, was of the fame fize as that of a crocodile from five to fix feet; its teeth were upwards of half an inch long, ftrong and tharp; and its throat was more than wide enough to fwallow a hare, or even a pretty large dog, without having any occasion to chew it. The

1752. September.

Size of the largest.

By feeing those two serpents, which according to the teltimony of my negroes and of all those who had beheld great numbers of them, were but of an indifferent lize, I had no longer the least room to doubt of the truth of what I had heard a thousand times in that country, and which I had always looked upon as a fable. Even the negroes themselves, to whom I was indebted for thefe, affured me, that I had feen nothing extraordinary, and that it was not unufual to meet with some, within a few leagues east of the island of Senegal, as large and as long as the mast of a common ship. The people of Biffao told me, they had feen fome in their country, that were a great deal longer than masts. It was not difficult for me to judge, by comparing their accounts to the ferpents I had before me, that the largest of that species, upon a just computation, must be from forty to fifty feet long, and from one foot to one and a half a pietry large dos serant lava de sera occasion to thew it. "

The

The manner in which they feek their prey.

The manner in which this animal feeks his prey, is not less extraordinary than his enormous fize. He lurks in moraffes and places not far from the water. His tail is cuiled two or three rounds of a circle, which include a circumference from five to fix feet diameter, over which he rears his head with part of his body. In this attitude, and as it were immoveable, he throws his eyes all round, and when he perceives an animal within reach, he darts upon it by means of the circumvolutions of his tail, which have the fame effect as a firong fpring. If the animal he has feized is too large to be swallowed up intire, (as for instance, an ox, an antelope, or a large African ram) after giving it a few bites with his destructive teeth, he crushes and breaks its bones, either by fqueezing it with a few twifts, or by preffing it with the weight of his whole body, which he flides over it; then he takes it up again into his mouth, and covers it with a frothy spittle, to render lit more easy to swallow without chewing; for he has this in comlizards.

mon

1952. September. mon with a great many more ferpents and lizards, which never onew their food, but fwallow it up intice.

indiala we have refrestrated by the same

Their use.

This monfter, terrible as he may feem by his fize and ftrength, does not make the ravage that one would naturally imagine. He is eafily discovered, by reason of his voluminous fize, from whence wifeth the security of animals weaker than himfelf. His body, wreathed in spiral curls, appears at a great distance like the brink of a well; and this is warning enough to travellers, and even to the cattle themselves, to turn another wayor We never hear that he attacks the human species; at leaft, examples of this fort are very rare. Belides the hunting of large animals, fuch as horses, oxen, stags, and other the like quadrupedes, whose safety depends upon their legs, is not very agreeable to him, either because he finds it too troublesome. or it is not to fuse, or their field is not agreeable to his palate. He is much better pleased with devouring other leffer ferpents, lizards. nom

lizards, and especially toads and locusts, which feem to rife in clouds in this country, only to fatisfy his all-devouring jaws. Upon the whole, it may be faid of these ferpents, that they do more good than harmy fince they cleanfe the earth of an immumerable number of noxious infects and reptiles, which would otherwise oblige the inhabitants to defert those fruitful countries, where they are now fettled: fo that it is: the interest of the negroes, to suffer those monters to live unmolested direction and the wind mid-mone the

But to refume the thread of my narra- 12 October, tion : The necessity I was under of return to the Wood ing ten times to the fame places, and in dif- ifland, ferent feafons, gave me an opportunity, the 12th of the month of October, of difcovering a thing which was very remote: from my thoughts. Croffing, at least the twentieth time, the Wood island, in order to reach the village of Kionk, I perceived feveral finall fifties in moraffes formed by rain-water. They were all of the fame fpe- Rosches, cies; and, by their lively red, I knew them

to be the leffer kind of reaches. The raine had fubfided, and the water was beginning to dry up in those ponds; a fure fign that the fish were not long-lived. They must have died very foon, for I faw the ground two days after, when the waters were dried up. One would imagine, that the species was lost for ever in regard to that particular fpot; but, far from it, the next year new ones appeared, intirely like those of the preceding years. Here is a fact the more worthy of notice, as it does not appear by what means the fish could be conveyed to that place; for, on the one hand, the ponds, though deep, have no communication with the waters of the Niger, which is about three hundred fathoms from thence and besides, this species of fish is unknown to that river: fo that it cannot be supposed, that any of the aquatic birds should bring away the eggs. Surely, no body will pretent to fay, that the roaches lay their leggs every year in the bottom of those ponds, where they are preferved during the nine months

of drought, till the return of the rain abecause the same difficulty would still subfit in regard to the origin of the first with would be at least equally absurd to imagine, that their feeds were conveyed to other places by vapours, which, as they fell down, feattered them here and there into different basons better stort of the and

Wisconsten I enteren I found the tede 'sh I stopped on this morals no longer than Hearivest was necessary to cross it, because it was very late. Thence I proceeded to a fine country, where in the midft of a prodigious quantity of uncommon plants, the narciffus ceylanicus * distinguished itself, as well by its agreeable flavour, as by the whiteness of its flowers. Larrived at Kionk just as the night came on, which the musketoes made me pais very differeeably. Inconveni-Notwithstanding all the precautions which the governor of the village had taken to fereen me from their pursuits, by making me lodge in one of his own huts, newly plaistered with mud and cow dung, and

the village of

filling Narciffus ceylanicus, flore albo hexagono odorato. Comm. Hort. Amft. vol. I. pag. 75. tab. 39.

1752

filling it all night with fanoke; Aill there entered a fufficient number of those noifome infects to drive me almost made This, together with the flink of the dung and the fmoke, infupportable to any other of the human species but negroes, obliged me to decamp. I ran all over the village from hut to hut, to look for better quarters. Whereever I entered, I found the beds all full: without regard to fex, age, kindred, or condition, they all lay promifeuously fide by fide, formetimes five or fix, and even eight in the fame bed, naked as they came out of their mother's womb. But what furprized me the most was, the profound quiet with which they flept in the midft of fo thick a finoke, that one would imagine it must have suffocated them. In short, after rambling about a good deal, I had no other resource left, than to lay myself down in the open air on two mats, exended between two fires : and even there the mulketoes made me pay very dear for a few moments of reft ma dain baraffinda anilla.

The negroes lie promifcuously,

Faccasson.

the oralice-

tongulli- salz

thing wifes collanicus, flore albo hexageno ederate.

TORSENEGAL, NGC.

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With impatience I waited for day; and 1752. as foon as it began to peep, the ford of the village, defirous of diverting me with a Field of walk, conducted me into his gardens. The whole neighbourhood was very agreeable; the fallow grounds formed large mean dows, checkered with mangroves and calabath-trees, it which imade an delightful landscape. At that time the small millet which the negroes live upon, and which in their language they call dougoup-mont "; shewed its golden ears. The grain was almost ripe, and drew an infinite number of birds, that made a wast bavock. In order to fcare them away, the inhabitants had croffed their lougans with a great numa Industry of ber of threads, to which they hung shells, in h bones, and other fuch bodies, that are apt to make avenoise upon the least cole bifien. Is The whole was double put him motion abyorfour words which were Bretched to four corners of the field, where just as many women or children kept watch upon sheds or covered plate

Panicum Indicum, spied longissima. C. B. Pin. pag. 27. out Theorem The

204 kg 45, 66, 16

forms,

topillesilier.

forms, from feven to eight feet high, and each of them drew a cord, as foon as they faw the birds come near Belides this noise, they made a loud hollowing, and kept clapping their hands. This watch was to continue till the millet was fit to cut; yet in fpite of all their care and vigilance they were often deceived by the feathered plunderers. Small bengalis, black and red fparrows, and other pretty birds, which change their colour once a year, and which the French call fenegalis, flocked thither every morning in wast numbers. But the most terrible scourge of all was a large species of yellow and black sparrows, clouds of which fell like hall upon the grain; and when they had spread defolation in one quarter, they flew to another. Let their flay be never fo thort, and very often before the negroes had time to put their fcare-crow in motion, thefe birds did irreparable mischief. In have read in some relation, that the Ægyptians have no other remedy; but either they must sow more grain, or the destructive forms,

Clouds of fparrows.

to him all

tive fparrows must be less numerous in their country, fince we do not hear, that they occasion famines so frequently as among our negroes.

Near those fields of millet there were lougans of cotton, indigo, tobacco, watermelons, French-beans, and other legumes. Each of them was inclosed with a hedge of brambles, with which was entwined a species of wild cucumber, known in the country by the name of moi-moi *. This plant was loaded with a small fruit. which is of a fine coral red when it comes to full maturity; and some of it had been plundered by the ferpents, lizards, and My people perceiving the fruit, gathered a good deal of it, which they prefented to me, after tafting of it themselves. I had known it a long time; and had feen the people of the country eat of it often; nay I had feveral times eat as many as a dezen, to quench my thirst in the violent heats, without ever feeling any bad consequence,

ryonia folio anguloso acuto glabro. Burm. Thef. Zoft. pag. 48. tab. 19. fig. 1.

2752.

Terrible effect of this plant.

Medicania

10. esizeq1

entra militaria.

sequence, or the least inconveniency: but that day I thought proper to eat a much larger quantity of it. I dined towards noon with a very good appetite, and I likewife fupped without feeling any bad fymptom. It was not till nine o'clock that this fruit began to operate, when I was fuddenly feized with a fuffocating, or stoppage of breath; afterwards it worked me as violently as any emetic I ever took in my life; and this operation lasted near eight hours. One of my negroes, who was twenty years of age, and who had eaten more plentifully of this fruit than I, was feized in like manner towards midnight; but did not get off fo cheap. This emetic continued to work him above four and twenty hours, with fuch violence, that he did not know whereabouts he was all the time; and it had like to have cost him his life. Had such an experiment been made on purpole, I do not think a more favourable success could be expected from it: and what is most remarkable, each suffered in proportion to is the one that the good the

the quantity he had eaten of this fruit; but it had no effect at all on him who eat only a dozen; and even he who suffered most by it, was as well two days after, as he had not been ill at all.

month the useff indecent, and most expec-

Tired with going thro' fo many hard Feat of the Tabalke. thips at Kionk, I returned to the island of Senegal, where I arrived time enough to be present at the feast of the tabaske. The Mahometans, of the feet of Sine-Ali, founded this feast to commemorate the nativity of their prophet: it falls yearly towards the middle of the October moon; and this year it was celebrated the 18th. The whole day was fpent in feating and merriment, during which time the faint, in whose honour the festival had been instituted, feemed to be very remote from their thoughts. It ended with a ge- General neral dance in the favana, over-against the forts, whither people of all ages and fexes repaired. The ball was opened at four in the afternoon, with tabor and pipe and vocal music. The young people, in their

and

1752. October.

Field of the

William II

their gayest array, displayed their several abilities in this kind of divertion of When they had tired themselves for two hours, in dancing according to the manner of the country, that is, in postures and movements the most indecent, and most oppofite to our ideas of modesty and shame, the fcene varied : they made a large circle, to give place to lords and persons of distinction, who were mounted on horses magnificently caparisoned Nothing could be more entertaining than to fee those proud coursers, forgetting their mettle and fire, and conforming to the intent of the festival: they raised their feet, and touched the ground lightly and in cadence; all the movements of their bodies exactly accorded with the found of the instruments; in a word, their gestures bore a perfect refemblance to a most regular dance. The festival seemed to be intended for them only, fo greatly were they affected with it, and fo fensible of applaufe. I do not think there can be a nobler fight than that of horses trained to this exercise. and their

Scorching

bain, find,

and especially of such fine beautiful creatures as our Arabian horses of Senegal The horsemen themselves greatly added to those spores; for they managed their horses, and made them imitate whatever they pleased, seigning by their gesture and attitude, fometimes a combat, and other times a justling, a chace, or dance. The spectators, wrapped in admiration, were displeased at the too rapid approach of to the and night, which put an end to amufements, where nought was heard but joy, festivity, and mirth. stail, I met with what the littless call the

A journey over land from the island of Senegal to la Chaux, or the lime-kiln, was 4th of No. likely to give me a further knowledge of Joanneyova a country, that had pleased me so Chanz greatly at my first visit. I undertook it the 4th of November: my pirogue carfied me a league and a quarter by water, as far as the port of Galel, where I went ashore, intending to walk to the village of the fame name, about five hundred fasmodte call wind is Unturally fo parchine,

that

1752. Movember.

Scorching

over barren fands, and that day was remarkable for one of the fultriest east winds that had been ever felt in this season: but the heat I endured in travelling over those fands was nothing, when compared to what I suffered in the road to the limehils.

Difficulty of travelling during those

o I had now a long league to reach that place. In fetting out I went over a fandy diffigreeable plain, where, among other spinous shrubs that are fond of a very dry foil, I met with what the Jallofs call the niotoute it has a good deal of that refinous gum, known by the name of bdellium; and its branches ferve for a fokiou, that is, for a tooth picker to the women of the country. Though the fun had not yet reached the meridian, the fands were all on fire; and my those were foon eracked and burnt with the foorching heat. At any other time I should have moistened those burnings fands with drops of fivent; but the east wind is naturally so parching, that

Self Made to

that notwithstanding the violent heat of 1752. the air and the fun, my fkin was dried up, before the fweat had time to thew itself. I had violent prickings over all my body; and the blood oftentimes opened itself a passage through my pores, which the fiveat could not pervade. My negroes were no longer of a black complexion, but as red as copper: they were tormented with thirst, the inseparable companion of parching heat, which obliged them to hang out their tongues, in order to breathe more freely. I was as thirsty as they, and I may venture to affirm, that this is one of the greatest miseries apperfon is exposed to in these scorching plains, where there is not a drop of water to be had. No doubt but it would have been very great relief to us, almost perishing with thirst, and brolled in the funt but the inhabitants of that country are not like those of more temperate climates; they keep no refervoirs of water on the high roads for the accommodation of travellete, to abmood wit or svil most travel MO

U a

After

1752.

Crabs with

large claws.

After having walked an hour over those fands, exposed to the scorching rays of the fun, I came to a dry meadow, full of thick rushes, from three to four feet high, which greatly tried my patience. What little water there was, I found it faltish, stagnated, and spoilt by crabs. Never did I behold fuch a fight of those animals as on this very spot: some were red, others dark grey, with fuch prodigious claws, that they could eafily fpan my leg, without fqueezing it. In fine, this continued forest of rushes (for I met with nothing else for the space of half a league) brought me as far as the lime bank.

He dines under the

After

I was so tired that I wanted to rest myself: for which reason I staid here some
time, and dined under the trees, with a
few provisions and a water-melon, which
I had brought with me from Galel. This
is a very wholesome fruit, especially after
repast; and I have often eat for my own
dessert, from sive to six pounds of it, with-

out

out any inconveniency or furfeit, though I had made a hearty dinner. While I' was feated under those trees, I heard the parakites and parrots over my head; and fome of the kernels of acacias and gum-trees, which they were eating, dropped down at my feet. In the mean time my negroes, who had fuffered greatly by the exceffive heat, were rubbing their foreheads with live toads, a few of which Toads are a they found under the briars: this is their for dizzines. usual remedy, when they are afflicted: with a megrim or dizziness; and it gave them relief. I fuffered as much from the fame complaint as they, and should readily have followed their example: but the want of being used to those animals, together with an almost invincible repugnance, which I look upon as natural to every body that has not been accustomed to handle them, hindered me from having recourse to this innocent and wholfome remedy,

I came back the same way I went to the lime-kiln, for there is no other. the 1752. November

Birds of the lime meadow, the meadow I killed a flomant, and a buftard of a different species from the European: It differs in the colour of its feathers, which are generally of a dark grey; its neck is also very long; and, like the lark, it has a kind of tust on the back part of its head. The French in that country call it a flying-offrich; whether this name suits it or not, this is not a fit place to examine; it may be said, however, that the above bird resembles an offrich in many respects.

The negroes burn their lands. It was very late when I passed within sight of Galel; and the negroes had set fire to the herbs and brambles as well to render the country passable, as to prepare it for being sown the next year. Thus the heat of nocturnal sire succeeded to that of the sun; and I walked by the light thereof as far as the port, where I embarked for the island of Sene-gal. There I arrived so fatigued and ex-

hausted,

^{*} Phoenicopterus Bahamenfis. Catefby, vol. 1, tab. 73

hausted, which was also the case with my negroes, that I do not think I ever stood more in need of repole in my whole dife enthropen a position of south and an

e deconcil of the colour, and analysis In this and every expedition I made Manner in fince the month of June, my principal view was to acquire fome knowledge of the plantations of indigo. I was curious soil know , what iquantity and quality the negroes fow in the neighbourhood of the illand of Senegal, because I had a mind to repeat some experiments, which dihad imparted in proper time to the East-India Company. Those people do not take much pains to draw the die out of this plant; they are fatisfied with gathering the leaves at any time of the year, with pounding them in a mortar to reduce them to a paste, and with making them up into loaves, in order to preferve them dry. When they want to make use of them, they diffolve them in a kind of lye, made of the afhes of an unctuous plant which grows in their fields, and by 210

1752.

by them is called rbeme * This diffete tion imbibes a tincture of the indigo, into which they dip their linen cold, as often as they think necessary, according to the deepness of the colour. In this and every characteristical

Cacrelate.

ASSOCIATE Maddet

I know what fympathy there is between the cacrelats and indigo; but, as often as I happened to leave a bundle of this plant in my room in the night time, I was fure to find fome hundreds of those infects lodged in it the next day; and it feemed as if they were all got together. They are as, troublesome as they are common in the island of Senegal. Though they are fcarce an inch thick, they do an incredible deal of mischief. They gnaw linen, sheets, wood, paper, books, and, in short, whatever comes in their way : they attack even the aloes, the bitterness of which keeps off all other infects. They are likewise very disagreeable by the stench that comes from their bodies; and they

Inconvenithose in-

Portulaca marina latifolia, flore fuave rubenti.

1752.

whom they take up their quarters; for they never flir out till night, then they hover round the room, and make as great a noise as if there was large cage full of birds. In short, the carrelat multiplies so fast, that it would be a most dangerous insect, had it not a great number of enemies.

Those it has the most reason to be afraid of, are the spider and the fourd: the latter is a species of lizard, said to be venomous, and as lickerish after the cacrelat as the spider. They both refide in bed-chambers as well as that infect, and are at continual war with it; which secures the tranquillity of those with whom they have once taken up their quarters. The hedge-hog tikewife persecutes it: that of Senegal differs from the European in fize only: it passes, like the latter, some part of the low feafon, that is of the cold and dry feafon, in a species of lethargy, during dinarry

1752. Narember rarely going abroad in fearch of any; but it knows very well how to repair this loss in the summer nights. I kept one for above three years in my chamber, where it did me immense service, by freeing me from spiders, caerelats, fourds, ants, and other insects, with which the room had been ininfested. The hedge-hog is exceeding good eating, and very tender, especially if you take it, about the time when it begins to enter into its lethargic sleep.

Sand-Reas,

Another inconveniency, especially during the winter or low season, are the sands fleas, which are so called because they lodge in the sand of inhabited huts. These are so full of them, that as soon as you set soot therein, they cover you all lover; and they are so very small, that you can perceive them only by their numbers. They do not bite hard; yet, when there are great multitudes of them, they produce an itching or stinging almost intolerable. What is most extraordinary

dinary in this infact, it never deaps for 1752, jampa higher than three or four inches: for that, when a person takes care to keep himfelf half a foot above ground he is fure there is nothing to fear from that of the country, fuch as the Cameratity

botates, ... nanans, ... ejusaas, is andd ... dime This, I believe, is the proper place, Advantages fince I am upon the article of Senegal, of the i fland of Senegal, to take notice also of some of its advantages. The the heats of this climate are excessive, to such a degree, that their winter is much warmer than our furnmer in France, yet they are support. The heats able. One is accustomed to them by supportable. degrees; because the air is every day refreshed with sea and land breezes, which blow alternately. The way therefore for a person to cool himself, is to catch the fanning breezes, or to take shelter within doors, when there is a thorough air, and the windows are made of fine Mily ideal, to consult he speciet. linen.

very largering, is my liaveng fown par-

celere

1752. November.

The fands

Adventures

of the Lincoln

. aldenoggul

It is to these heats that they are partly indebted for the fertility of their lands. The fands of this island are converted into gardens of confiderable produce. Independently of the legumes and fruits of the country, fuch as the Guinea ofeille, ananas, guavas, and botates. others, they likewise plant, in the winter feafon, most of the European herbs and legumes. The fig-tree, the pomegranate, and the vine, are loaded every year with excellent fruit. With a little labour. and care, there is no fruit nor grain, but would grow there in great plenty: they might raife whatever they want, and generally all the necessaries of life. In thort, the foil of the island of Senegal, notwithstanding its being so fandy, is yet so very fruitful, that a great many plants yield feveral times a year. This I faw myfelf in a garden which I kept on purpole for fuch experiments: and what without all manner of doubt will appear very furprizing, is, my having fown particular legumes, of which I had above twelve

twelve crops the same year. But this curious detail I refer to another work.

1752. November .

There is not perhaps a country in the world where poultry are more common. They breed turkeys, Guinea hens, geefe, ducks, and a prodigious number of fowls. Their pigeons are in admirable perfection; and their hogs multiply very fast. There is also plenty of fish, and especially Fish. in the Niger, where you may catch carps with your hand. This river, befides the lamantin or fea-cow; abounds in captains, mullets, furmullets, foles, rays, and other excellent fish: it has also plenty of crabs and lobsters. Most of these fish come from the fea: and it is faid, that when they are caught in the river it improves them; because the mixture of the fresh with the falt water makes them more delicate and tender. To all these advantages we may add the pleasure of sporting; for this island is furnished with little moor-hens,

^{*} A fish so called, because it is very red, and its fine refemble a feather : it is very like a carp, but larger. care

1752. November.

to redit

with larks, thrushes, sea-partridges, and yellow wagtails, or, to express myself better, the ortolans of the country: these are small lumps of sat, exceedingly well tasted.

The only thing wanting in the illand of Senegal are walks; for they fay it is too finall, and too maked. They might, without doubt, have umbrageous avenues for the fake of a fludy walk, were they to plant calabath-trees, and the like, which delight in moult fands: but of what use would it be, to make a harbour for the mulketoes, that is, for a greater plague than the most excessive heats? Of what fervice would these avenues be in a country, where the time of walking is not till fun-fet? Ought they to regret this lofs, when they have gardens enamelled with perpetual verdure, which every day prefent the eye with new decorations, where such a multitude of flowers, as agreeable by their fragrant odours as by the variety of their colours, shoot up almost without

Pleafant gardens.

1431.93

care

1752

care or culture. There you fee, sweet bafil of all fizes and colours, tuberofes, daffodils, asphodel-lillies; among which the night-shade, the African pink, the amaranth, and pomegranates in bloffom, produce an excellent effect. The blue and gilt lizards, with butterflies and other infects, all equally beautiful, delight in coming hither to mix their different colours, and to divertify that fameness which one fees in most gardens. okos with the lame.

I had taken a plan of the Wood-ifland, Map of the as well as of that of Griel, the limekiln, the illand of Sor, Bokes, and feveral others; and nothing further remained for me than to add the point of Barbary and the falt-pans to it: then I should have a complete map of the neighbourhood of the illand of Senegal, from the village of Mouitt to the mouth of the Niger, as far as the village of Torkhod, feven leagues to the north. The delire I had of finishing a work already far advanced, and which had coff me fuch

neighbourhood of the island of Senegal.

> and Heart LANCE STATE

1753.

25 June.

Expedition to the faltpens.

fuch a deal of trouble, and fo many excursions over the burning fands, induced me to undertake an expedition to the faltpans. I therefore embarked the 15th of June, 1753, on board a veffel that was going to trade there for falt. As it was well equipped, and the wind proved favourable. we foon got beyond the English island, which is only a flip of marffty land, a hundred fathoms in diameter, covered with reeds and almost impenetrable mangroves. We paffed the ifle of Bokos with the fame quickness; and as soon as we came across the fouth point of the marigot of Del, I went on shore in order to fathom the neighbouring parts, while the vessel continued its course to the place where it was to anchor. Marbary and the falt gans to

Small ferpents very common.

self to mild erodalates

hood of the

To bouth Legan 2

> I should have a complete man of the Walking over the fands of this point, I met with such a multitude of serpents, that they feemed to grow wherever I trod: fortunately for me they were neither large nor venomous, being hardly, fo big as one's little finger; fo that their doul.

bite

Salt-pane

bite could not be dangerous." Thefe fands brought me to the falt-pans, which were two thirds of a league from the mariget: they are a kind of morals, from two to three hundred fathoms long, and one third broad, filled with a falt water extremely tharp. It is to impregnated with falt, as to yield one third of its quantity, and rather more; and; when congealed, it covers the bottom with a thick folid crust. The negroes enter up to the knee, and oftentimes deeper, into this water, which may be faid almost to boil with the heat of the fun. They are provided with Rakes of hard wood, with which they break the falt; and afterwards they carry it to the river fide, where the French traffick with them. This falt is generally fo white as to dazzle the eye: force of it is also of a carnation colour: bot it has always a bitter sharpness, difagreeable to the tafte; and it is this corrolive quality, that renders it not fo proper for faking of fresh meat and fish. One X

1753. June.

They have no communication with the

The author is fure of it by furvey-ing.

One would imagine, that thefe falt moraffes have fome communication with the fea. I had been of this opinion, before I visited the spot; but then I perceived the impossibility of it. They are separated from the Niger by a neck of land, of above five hundred fathoms, where a chain of fand-hills rifeth, which neither the waters of the river, nor even those of the sea, when most tempestuous, do ever reach. The furvey I took of this ground that day, convinced me further, that the bottom of this morals is higher than the furface of the river : whence I concluded, that we must trace the origin of this falt, which is every year produced in fuch abundance, up to fome other cause than the actual communication of the fea-water. ceneration of white as to decide the com-

When I had examined the falt-pans, and finished all my surveying, I went to the trading place called by the name of Piquet, where the exchange of goods was to be made, and opposite to which the vessel

had

had anchored. The agent for this business had already caused a tent to be pitched

upon the shore, and some huts to be built of leaves of trees, under which we

were to lie. The negroe lord, master of the falt-pans; otherwise called korom-affou,

or kram-affou, having notice of his arrival, came to pay him a visit. He

feemed to be about forty; was large, and

well made: his complexion was not a deep black, but with a little tincture of red

he had a noble air, though not handsome; a quick conception; an eafy carriage, and a

fost agreeable tone of voice: he explained himself very well, and with gravity.

After half an hour's conversation, when he had agreed with the agent, he con-

ducted us a quarter of a league off to the village of Guebenn, of which he was

governor. There he received us very civilly, and even with a politeness which Manner in one could hardly have expected from a

man of his colour. He gave us a collation of new milk, palm wine, icaque

plumbs, called ourai, and other fruits of X 2 the

1753

Description of the lord of the falt

> which he receives the

17.53-June, the country. He had fummoned all the young people of the village to give us a ball; and accordingly they attended us dancing to vocal and inftrumental mufick. as far as the trading place, where they continued these sports till midnight. Dancing is the favourite entertainment of the negroes; they fometimes bring young children with them that can hardly fland: one would be apt to fay, that they are born dancing, to see the exactness of The same amusetheir movements. ments were renewed every evening In short, this good man did all he could to procure us diversion; and this was not a finall comfort to us in to defert and forlorn a place.

Village of Mouitt, The next day I went to reconnoitre the neighbourhood of Mouitt, which is within two thirds of a league to the fouthward of Piquet. It is a pretty large trading village, advantageously situate on a hill well planted with calabash-trees, and wild figs, of a

very

very great height; the latter bear a frong refemblance to the fycamore of the ancients. By the way I passed near a great number of finall falt-plans, full of a ffrong red falt, infinitely more sharp and more corrolive than that of the large falt-pans of Guebenn. I likewife met with foxes, antelopes, and the footsteps of wild boars and wolves lately imprinted on the fand: but the shooting of those animals, with which I was well acquainted, did not tempt me fo much as that of certain blackbirds, which I deferred eastward of the village. They were fo like a turkey, both as to fize and feathers, that one might very cafely mistake them. I killed two with the fame floot, one male, and the other female. They had both a kind of black hollow helmet on the Sacredbirds. head, of the same bulk and figure as that of the cafear: upon their neck they had a long plate like a very bright vellumi, which was red in the male, and blue in the female. This bird might be the gallinache of the Portuguefe, or what

X 3

1753. June. the French in the American islands call marchan; but the negroes give it the name of guinar. The inhabitants of this neighbourhood look upon it as a marabou, that is, as a facred animal; perhaps, because it generally lives longer than the fmall ferpents, fo common in the neighbourhood, and for which the negroes have a superstitious veneration, They could not bear that I should be so audacious as to facrifice their marabous to my pleasure: nay, they looked upon me as a conjurer, when I brought them to the ground with the very first shot; for they imagined those birds to be invulnerable. They carried their superstition so far, as to tell me, that I should infallibly die on my journey, for having committed fo heinous a crime.

This action did not gain me the efterm of the inhabitants of Mouitt: however, I got away from thence without any harm, and continued my journey towards the village

9f

of Guioel and Guebenn, where I found

the country to die their

Arubs, called foudenn in the country: it is a kind of alkanna *, the leaves of which are used by the negroe men forubused in and women to give a red die to their nails and they never lofe this colour, till they come to grow again. From thence I continued my journey as far as the village of Del, and then I returned to the trading-place. The banks of the Niger were at that time covered in this spot with a small kind of fish, scarce so large as half a goofe quill: they were white and transparent as crystal, and each side of them was marked with a narrow filver line.

After spending three days at the salt- Plan of the pans of Guebenn, I fet out from thence Barbary. the 18th in the evening, and returned to the island of Senegal, directing my course

together or

[·] Ligustrum Ægyptinm, el henne vel tamar-endi. P. Alp. Ægyp. pag. 23.

1753.

Louisian a.

the oregeny

Plan of the conflict Parkery.

YU

by the point of Barbary, in order to be able to fettle it in my map. I travelled very near three leagues on foot, coasting its fands through all their windings, from the bar upon the western bank of the Niger, as far as the village of Gueutt. which is parallel to the middle of the island of Senegal. My cance followed me along shore, and kept as near to land as possible, in order to take me in, if I should happen to be stopped by a rivulet, or by any of these thickets of tamarisk and sapar, which are scattered upon the coast. All the way I saw nothing but yellow crabs, which covered the earth in such a manner, that sometimes I went over plains of above fifty far thoms, without being able to discover one foot of bare ground. On those white sands the sea bind-weed * expanding its purple flowers, amidit the agreeable verdure of its trailing stalks, formed all-

AL

Convolvulus marinus catharticus, folio rotundo, flore purpureo. Plum. Plant. de l'Amerique, pag. 89, pla. 104.

Plants that

or philmo

together an admirable embroidery. The Arrubs I faw there were a few tamarifles, the beidel-affar *, the paretuiver +, the fanar +; the spartium t, the conocarpus |; and great numbers of lobelia 4, and icaque §. The latter is a receptacle for a kind of red ants, which lodge in its branches: among the leaves they form a kind of neft, from whence they affail those who are so imprudent as to draw near to gather the fruit; and they bite them most unmercifully. I could not escape those insects, as I had a good deal of the wood to traverse. There was fomething fo venomous in their fling, that my face and hands were covered with blifters, as if they had been scalded: the pain was not asfuaged, till I got thoroughly wet with

infects

Beidel offar. P. Alp. Ægyp. pag. 85.

⁺ Trees which have not been yet described.

¹ Spartium scandens, citreis foliis, storibus albis, ad nodos confertim nascentibus. Plum. cat. pag. 19.

Conocarpus, Linn. bort. Cliff. pag. 485.

T Lobelia frutefeens, portulacze folio. Plum. gen. pag. 21.

J leaco fruttu ex alba subescente. Plum gen. pag. 43-

1753. June.

Phone that

a heavy rain, which fell in the beginning of the night, and was attended with thunder and lightning, by the help of which I saw my way to cross the river, and got back to the island of Senegal.

The author thinks of returning to France.

and drame of ver he lated is a recented As foon as I arrived there, I began to think of returning to France. I had been ablent from home upwards of four years; and during that time I had had occasion to make as numerous a feries of observations, as could reasonably be expected in the settlement of Senegal: at least, if there were any more remaining, they were only fuch as might be deemed a mere matter of curiofity, or generally cscape the eye of even the most clear-fighted, or require too long a stay to finish. These considerations were fufficient to determine me; and as feveral vessels were expected that very same month, I resolved to embrace that opportunity.

Though I had fent yearly into France to Messieurs de Reaumur and de Jussieu, a great number of animals, birds, fishes, insects,

I be william for the street willis, floribus about ad

infects, herbs, feeds of plants, and other 1753. productions of the country, according as they fell in my way; yet I was fenfible that many things were ftill wanting, especially several trees and shrubs which had never yet been feen in Europe, not even in the king's gardens. Being apprized of the particular encouragement his majesty vouchsafes to give to botanists, and excited moreover by the orders of the Duke d'Ayen, which I received by means of M. B. de Juffieu, I thought my honour concerned, as a naturalist, not to return to France, without bringing along with me the most remarkable plants that grow in the fcorching climate of Senegal, to add them to those which his majesty has collected, from both hemispheres, and which are preferved with fuch tafte and magnificence in the green-houses at Trianon, Choifi, and Paris. W available and lo cover has by their threathing the ballight

With this view I resolved to take one trip more to Podor; and accordingly I fet to Podor,

rothof July.

out the tenth of July with a favourable wind. Since I had been in the country, I had never feen but two Empopean plants, the tamafifk and put-Same: and this third expedition gave me an opportunity to observe that of all the trees which line the banks of the Niger, there is not an eighth part, but what are of a very hard fpinous wood, chiefly acacias, talker and flenderer in proportion as they are more rentote from the few coult. But what firmek me most, was the shooting of monkeys, which I enjoyed within fix fileagues this fide of Podot, on the lands to the fourth of Donai, otherwise called Coq; and I do not think there ever was better fport. The veffel being obliged to flay there one morning, I went on there, to divert myfelf with my gun. The place was very woody, and fell of green monkeys, which I did not perceive but by their breaking the boughs on the tops of the trees, from whence they tumbled down byen me: for MIO

Shooting of green monkeys.

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dales es leis a cuencing

in other respects they were so filent, and nimble in their tricks, that it would have been difficult to hear them. Here I stopped, and killed two or three of them, before the others feemed to be much frighted : however, when they found themfolies wounded, they begen to look for theken; forme by hiding themfelves among the large boughs a others by coming down upon the ground, others, in fine, and these were the greatest number, by jumping from one tree to another. Nothing could be more ientertaining, when feveral of them jumped together on the same bough, than to feel it bend under them, and the hithermost to drop down to the ground, while the rest got furn ther on, and others were still suspended in the air. As this game was going on I continued fill to thoot at them : and though I killed no less than three and ewenty in less than an hour, and within the space of twenty fathoms, yet not one of them fereeched the whole time, notand withstanding

1753. July. panies, knit their brows, gnashed their teeth, and seemed as if they intended to attack me.

· theid cabefore, that effects fromed to the

My first care, upon my arrival at Podor, was to gather as many plants as poffible for the king's garden; and I had great forces in collecting and putting into two large chefts three hundred different trees, before I left the factory: for the last time I went a shooting, upon my return to the neighbourhood of Bokol, which was on the fecond of August, by walking in the heat of the fun, I had been feized with a burning fever, of that malignant fort which carries off most Europeans in less than two days. Thus this voyage proved more dangerous to me, than all my former expeditions and fatigues, in the space of four years, during which time I never had the least illness. I was three days without any affiftance, before I arrived at the island of Senegal, where I struggled with the diftemper a whole month; and

ed of August, the author is feized with a burning faver.

and after a relapfe, which brought me within an inch of my grave, at length I totally recovered. My youth, and a found constitution, which had never been hurt by debauch, together with the generous affiftance of the tenderest of friends *, preferved my life.

indep of obscious to opinion of the calcium.

Of all the veffels that came this year 6th of Sepupon the coast, there was only one left; with which I could return to France. I went on board her in a state of convalescence, after passing the bar the fixth time, and we weighed from the road of Senegal the 6th of September. The contrary winds, which prevail at that time of the year, did not promise us a short voyage; and as they blew from the north and north-caft, we could not firetch northward, but were constantly obliged to bear to the west. Upon our way, within ten leagues of the islands of Cape Verd, perceiving a very white fea, we founded a hundred fathoms or more, without finding any

tember, he fets fail for

M. Andriot, whom I have already mentioned.

bottom:

bottom: after which the fea having he fumed its usual colour, we imagined we had paffed over a white fand-bank, which the Dutch charts mark at eighty fathoms. by debauch, together, with the generous

He is becalmed.

enginer, he

sets' tall for . was I

At a time when we were within two hundred leagues of the court, between the 17th and 18th degree of latitude, a calm came on, which lasted almost sifteen days, with fuffocating heats: it was fo fill, that the ship did not feem to change fituation; though the current had carried us a great way fouthward. This was the properest place in the world to find the fea water in its full faltness; since we were at sufficient distance from land, to be under no apprehension that the river waters could communicate any of their freshness to it? I therefore filled a bottle, which I fealed bermetically, with an intention of make ing an analysis of it at my return to France my that something all to

> There is nothing more tirefome than to be in a veffel becalmed; and nothing

a very watere lest we sounded a nonlined

: mottest

more dreadful than to be far out at fea, 1753. when provisions begin to fall thort. We made use of this unlucky accident to catch. fome fift, and were very much in the right, for the small quantity of fresh provisions we had taken in at Senegal, was confumed; fo that we were now reduced to falt meat, and likely to be still a long round its face, which gives it the right drefs that can poslibly be imagined.

At that time there was great plenty of the open fine requiens, bonites, grand orcilles, and goldennis: the three latter live only on flyingfish, of which they are so greedy, that if you only counterfelt one of them, by covering the hook with a little linen, and two white feathers, and let it hang at the end of a rod, or behind the stern, they will be fure to bite directly. We used no other bait; and it succeeded so well, that we took a prodigious quantity of them, part of which we falted, for fear of fearcity. The bonite and grand or eille are a middling species of tunny-fish, and have altogether the fame tafte; the goldennis is fomewhat the

fomewhat inferior to them in this respect; but greatly surpasses them in beauty; and without doubt, it is the beautifullest sish in the sea. The colour of its body is a dark blue ground, which in the water appears like an azure blue, and after passing through all the gradations of green and violet, is lost in a gold lustre, diffused all round its sides, which gives it the richest dress that can possibly be imagined.

Successive calms.

To this first calm succeeded several others, the shortest of which were from three to eight days; nor did they leave us till we had passed the 30th degree of latitude. There we had south-west winds, by the help of which we intended to put into the nearest of the Azores. This was the best thing we could do in our present situation, when we wanted both biscuit and fresh water, and the greatest part of our ship's company were unfit for service.

A few days after we descried a very high foggy land, which we found to be the

seven box y all wi

so October he arrives at the iffand of Faral.

the life of Pico; and near it was that of Payal. We made all the fail we could towards the latter, and entered the harbour to the eastward the 20th of October. There we cast anchor in fifteen fathoms, afterwards in nine, a fandy bottom, subject to magnetical attraction, and a bad holding ground. This is the only port in the island of Fayal; and though it seems to be sheltered by two great mountains, yet it is exposed to the north-east and fouth-east winds, which occasion a very rough fea, especially in autumn, and drive the ships off the coast, unless they are well moored with three and even four anchors. From the west winds it is covered by the island itself, out of which it is scooped. as it were, in a semicircle, four hundred fathoms wide, and three hundred deep. The island of Pico, which is two leagues over against it, shelters it also from the general east winds; but on the other hand, it is the cause of its being annoyed by others far more dangerous: for it reflects the fouth-west and north-west winds that

Winds canfed by the ifland of Fayal.

Instituted!

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come

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Brook altrain Benea Bine William!

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Winds canfed by the ifland of Fayal.

The idea

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to breath more

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which occusion luch a variation of winds. I observed during my stay at Payas, and the inhabitants assured me, they had long experienced it, that as often as the isle of Pico is darkened by a sog, it is productive of wind; and this they took upon as their most saithful anemoleope. It is likely that this mountain has the same effect as an uncleotrified body, which attracteth the clouds; whence it happens, that the ambient air, being pressed unequally on all sides, is forced to take an irregular course.

The island of Pico.

de beieff vie

Jaga

The Pice of the Azores is hardly more than half a league in perpendicular height: when viewed from the fide of Fayal, it has the form of a short cone, terminating in a sharp nipple, and is in 38 deg. 35 m. north latitude, and 3½ deg. west longitude. This is the only mountain in the island of the same name, which may be looked upon as the vineyard plot

An inframent which shows from what side the winds blow.

of Fayal: for the latter depends therein, and all its inhabitants have their country houses there, with their frems and wineyards; which they cultivate with great care. Thither they go every year to attend their vintage, which produceth two forts of white wine, like facto Their mainter but of an inferior quality. is not fo lufcious: but the dry or mble stine is almost as strong as brands, and quickly mounts up to the head. As food es their wines are made, they consey them in September and October to their cellars in Fayal, from whence they are experted to Brafil and fome other parts of the world, by the name of wines of Faval, though this island produceth none. and they all come from Pico.

If Fayal was not exposed to fuch Beautiful frequent guitariof stind, it would be one of the most beautiful harbours in the world, because of the delightful prospeck it affords, to those who approach it by fea. b The fray we made there, be-Capiton

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dailne.

1753. Oanter. fore we went on thore, gave me an opportunity to view it at my full leifure. It appears like a mountain scooped into a femicircle, and divided into four or five fumnity covered with trees, which descend down, as far as the fea, by a very gentle declivity. At the foot of this mountain the town winds along the port, and is furrounded with a great number of gardens, ranged one over the other in the form of an amphitheatre, which even in its irregularity affords a most charming view to the eye. The anchoring place is like that of Santa Cruz in the illand of Tenerif, with this difference, that the shore is less steep, and is covered with a pretty fine fand or gravel, of a blackish colour, on which it is easier landing,

Town of Fayal. About the middle of the harbour there is a kind of fort, the walls of which are washed by the sea. The town comes next, and is of the same figure as the harbour: it is governed by a Capitan

Considered. first sate

Capitan mor * and very populous. There are five thousand inhabitants, all Portuguele, most of them ecclesiastics, and religious of both fexes; for indeed, I never faw fo many convents in one town. The churches are handsome and properly maintained. There are also several good buildings, among the reft the college belonging to the Jesuits, who are temporal lords of the island. The burghers houses are very neat, all wainfcotted and inlaid. whence one may judge, that they are in no want of wood was an and a state of

The island of Fayal is in a fine climate: Temperathe air is very good, and preferves dur- air. ing the whole winter a fufficient temperature, to have no occasion for fire; and indeed they never warm themselves, nor do you fee any chimney in their houses. In furnmer it is conftantly refreshed with

houlding of the mountains the laryes its fer-

ture of the

earth.

breezes:

The following are the governor's titles, which he gave me in writing : Signor Jeronimo de Brum da Silveira Porras Fidalgo da cafa de fua Mag. e Caveleiro Porfesso na Ordem de Chrysto Capitano, Maior da Capitania das Ubas des Afferes Fayal e Pico, really producing the lever Pireits of the

of the fea, it is fure to receive them from what quarter foever they blow, and they render the heats supportable.

Qualities of the foil.

steven Livide teatry repryented in one terre! The fail is not less to be admired than the temperature of the air: as it is red and flony, and in that respect very like the foil of the itle of Pico it would be extremely fit for producing good wines but there is not room enough, and therefore they are fatisfied with planting fuch things as are most necessary for life. The moisture of the mountains preserves its fernlity: their tops are covered with very beautiful trees, as walnut and chefnut trees, white poplars, and especially strawberrytrees, that never lose their verdure. It is owing to the prodigious quantity of the latter in this island, that the Portuguele have given it the name of Fayal, which in their language fignifies a strawberry-tree. The juice or moisture of the earth is wonderful, being in confliant culture: it never lies idle, and yet is continually producing the feveral fruits of the earth.

enithis On othe numbrageous hills they plant a great many roots, as potatoes and colocatia, which ferve to feed their domeltics: The fields are like unto fo many gardens, parted from one another by dry walls, breaft high anthey are fet afide for corn ; but what little they gather, is hardly fufficient to maintain the inhabitante, who supply what is wanting with mais, allupines, little ciches, and fome other legumes, which grow better upon the lide of the hill, donors of the fame time the lupines of with which they

They have likewife a confiderable de- Garden. pendence upon their gardens, where they cultivate a great number of fruit-trees, oranges and citrons of all forts, apple, fig, and pomegranate trees, vines, and olives, with herbs of various forts. Melons, giromons, fweet calabalhes, and feveral other fruits of the earth, grow almost spontaneously.

^{*} Cucurbita oblonga, flore albo, folio molli. G. B. Pin. Morif. Hift. fell. 1. tab. 3. fee & day

There is nothing wanting, but for the inhabitants to lay out their gardens in more order, and to drefe them little better; as they have I plenty of flowers. For borders, they have a great deal of onions, thyme, lavender, fage, rolemary, fweet bafil, and aromatic plants. The pink, the gilliflower, the balfam apple, the jeffaming the balifiert, the asphodel-lilliest, the dasfodils, and the tuberofe, were in flower in the beginning of the month of November. At the fame time the lupines, + with which they had planted the hills, had thot out of the ground, and probably were to be ripe the month of January following

Flories.

It is impossible to find any where else greater plenty of cattle. They have excellent oxen, sheep, and swine: they likewise breed all forts of poultry. Fish

property and citrons of all"

Cannacorus amplifimo folio, flore rutilo. Infl. pag. 367.

¹ Lilio-asphodelus puniceus. Cluf. Hift. 1. pag. 137.

⁺ Lupinus albus. Park. Morif. Hift. fett. 2. tab. 7. fig. 3.

is not very common, and they have none but from the fea. At that time they were fishing for small foles and flounders, which they catched easily with a rod. I observed a certain conformity between this island and that of Tenerif, as it has very little game, and few birds. In feveral of my walks, for two leagues all round, I met with only a few hares, and fome quail scattered about the fields. True it is, that there were blackbirds on the tops of the mountains; and I faw a great number of them myfelf, whole black olumage was agreeably speckled with white: they perched in companies on ftrawberry-trees, eating the fruit, and

Though autumn is a very agreeable springwater. feafon in the Azores or Western Isles, vet the fkies began to be over-cast and to threaten rain. The island of Faval is more rainy than the rest; doubtless, because of the ifle of Pico, and its own mountains, which determine the clouds to stop there. Hence ciono arife

mice or the labellants, and that spine

to shelle ont

rife a great number of springs, which enpear every where, even in feveral parts of the town, where they are collected in well-paved cifterns. The water of thefe fprings, though very pure, is heavy and extremely crude; to me it appeared to have a tincture of mineral, and of the ferruginous kind, they you to interest count, I met with out a few berest and

The iffand of Fayal is the effect of plcano's.

The highest mountain in this island is very near its center, within two leagues and an half from the town. Heretofore it vomited fire with combustible matter, and caused frequent earthquakes The eruption in 1672 was the last it left at the mouth of the volcano a large bason, which, according to the testimony of the inhabitants, has the figure of a parellelogram, furrounded with a very high wall, and so regular, that one would take it to be done by art, if we did not know for certain, that it owes its origin to subterrancous fires. The rainwaters have now filled this bason, and formed it into a kind of lake, or, to express arife

levels myles more properly, a relevels of fine water, greatly admired by the inhabitants. There can
be no doubt, but that the whole surface
of the island has been raised by means of
this or several volcanos together; for it
has no other stone than different kinds
of lavas, mixed with burnt stones
and pumices. The grain of those
lavas is much thicker than that of the
stones of the island of Teneris, of
which I have made mention in the
beginning of this narrative.*

This relaxation, though somewhat long, gave me a great deal of pleasure. Besides the knowledge I thereby acquired of a country, which I had never seen before, I restelled myself after the satigues of my voyage, and was better prepared for that to France. The usual slowness of the Portuguese, and the difficulty we had from the roughness of the fea, in laying in

morney bort 2 See page 1007 animan 1 1. sarray

to

a fresh

\$ Novem. they holft fail. beef, fowls, and other provisions, hindered us from leaving the port of Fayal till the 8th of November. The wind was at fouth-west, so that we soon lost sight of the Azores. I embraced the opportunity of the calmness of the weather, to fill a second bottle of water within three hundred leagues of the coast of France: and this was all I wanted, in order to make a comparison between it, and the bottle I had filled in the sea of Senegal.

Stormy weather for two months.

a fracte

Our voyage from Senegal to Fayal had been very tedious; but that from Fayal to France proved most dangerous. We had scarcely advanced sifty leagues from the Azores, when a boisterous south-east wind spread itself over the deep, and assailed us with a storm which lasted two months. We were obliged to surl our fails; and in this condition we tumbled and tossed about, at the mercy of the waves. Imagine to yourself the situation

of

oficia crazy veffel, mexpored to a tempeftuous ocean,: now rifingua-top a wastery mountain, and now finking into an abys; battered in flank by one wave, overborne by another, which in falling feems as if it would dash it into a thousand pieces. Imagine at the fame time the uneafy condition of a voyager, who feeks for repole, which he can no where find; the perplexity of a pilot, whole art is baffled; and who in vain looks up to the heavens to find out his course, while thick clouds and foaming billows feem to conspire against him: imagine, in short, the confusion even of the most experienced mariner, who sees a thip disappear on one side of him; how forlorn, how comfortless the scene ! basel cause a value protections to terring

Such was our fituation during the They mitwo shortest months in the year; and in fuch diffress were we toffed to and fro. both in the Ocean and the Channel. whither we were forced by the currents, and where we were every day obliged to avoid the very land we fought for left

refigure

flake their course in the Channel.

A Jenusty. City day on

ran stungent distribution

we fould split on the rocks, which abounded on that coast : when a calm enfuing, we took advantage of it to get out of the Channel and to feek for fhelter in Beeft. For the violence of the from had torn our fails to piebes, broke all our tackling, and damaged the body of the veffel; and as provisions were also thort, we could not in this condition reach l'Orient, our destined harbour, even if we had had the most favourible gales. tofind out his course, while thick clouds and

4 January, he puts into theharb our theharb of Breft.

state mach

err ni dinana

As foon so we came to the file of Ufhant, we took a coasting pilot on board, who brought us into the harbour of Breft. the 4th of January, 1754. The reader may judge of the thite I was inviuson my arrival at this port, after a very hard voyage of four months, which I had undertaken just as I was recovering from a danges rous fickness, the remembrance whereof was faill more afflicting to me, when I perceived that most of the plants which pocafiened it, were deferoyed by the feverity of the ferion. While our veffel was refitting 9.77

refitting, in order to proceed on her 1754.1 voyage to port l'Orient, I passed a January. month at Brest for the recovery of my health, and to prepare myfelf for my journey to Paris: this I performed in the midft of the frost and snows of the month of February, which, as every body knows, were extremely piercing, especially in Brittany. The rest of my plants were killed by the cold: however they did me a piece of fervice in convincing me, that even the faltest water, fuch as that of Senegal, is capable of being frozen. The two bot- Ser-water tles I brought from thence, well co- being vered with hay, were broke by the ice congealed within them, which tafted quite fresh, as Mr. de Justien and I observed, upon my arrival at Paris the 18th of February, after up- 18 Feb. he wards of five years absence. Paris.

repred and Followill See to base

nauthor.

the distance of the last to me, when I note

come and an extended and the restrict of the

TO SENECAL, &c.



refitting, in voyage) to month at my health,

We beg the favour of the Reader to excuse a sew literal mistakes, and to make the following corrections.

especially in Britany. The rest of my plants were killed by the cold: how-

P. 86. 1. 3. from the bottom, for bigh trol r.
moderate gallop.

P. 92. 1. 15. before and r. which.

P. 100. 1. 15. for fituations r. fituations.

P. 143. 1. 5. after life infert before nor fince.

P. 150. 1. 8. after thick put a comma, and dele comma after bass.

P. 181. 1. 2. for feft r. fresh.

P. 202. 1. 9. dele of is.

P. 223. 1. 17. dele which.

P. 300. 1. 7. for botatel r. batates.

P. 311. 1. 2. for structure at infert time,

P. 321. 1. 9. before at infert time,

P. 321. 1. 10. from the bottom, for companies r. flocks.

Less big a contract

being

iresen.

FINIS.

wards of five years ablence.

Paris the usth of February, after up to

